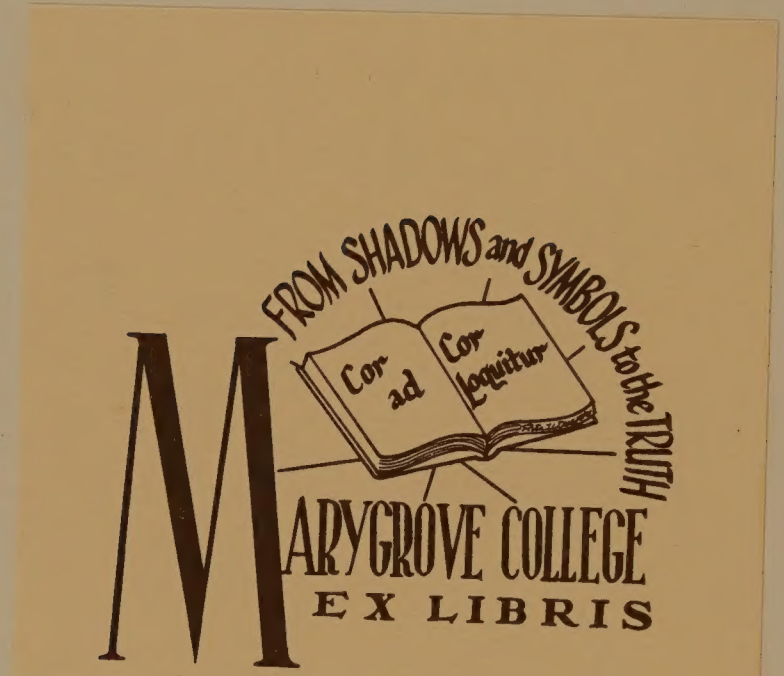
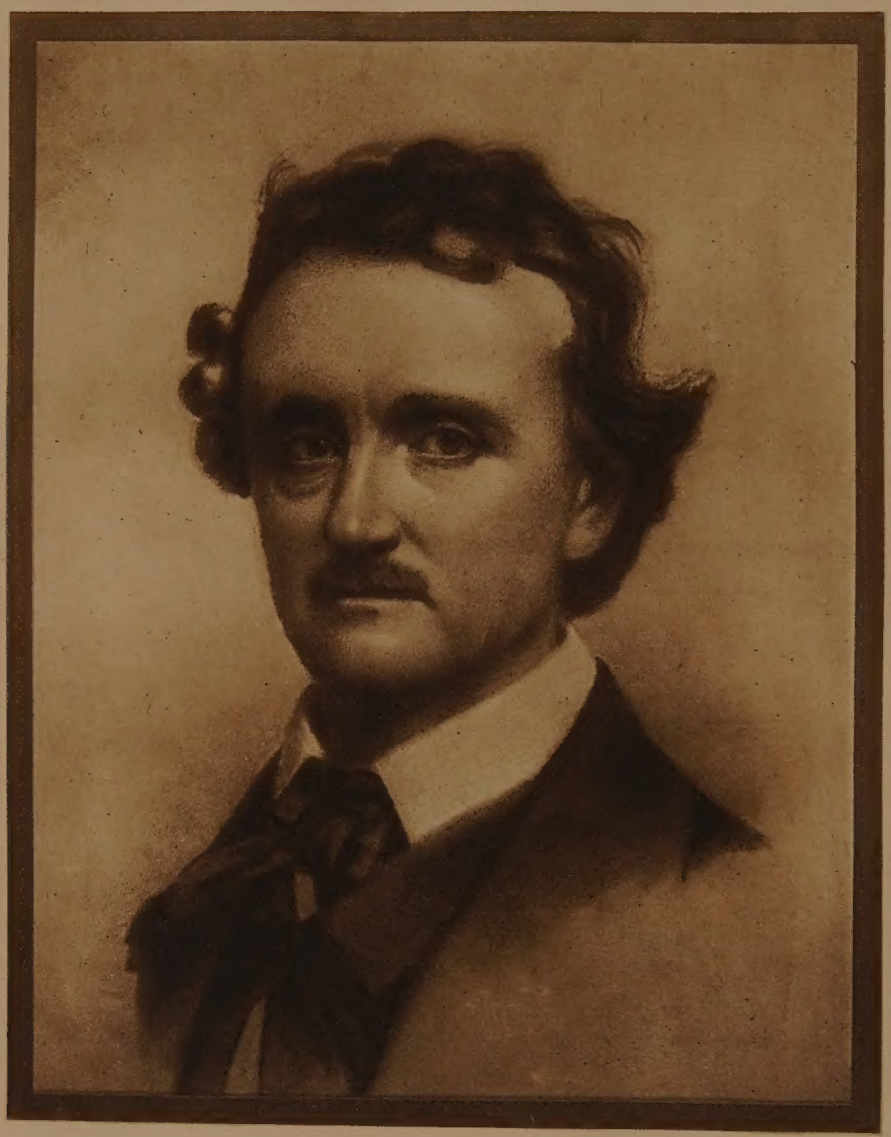

FROM SHADOWS and SYMBOLS to the TRUTH
Cor ad
Cor loquitur
MARYGROVE COLLEGE
EX LIBRIS

EDGAR ALLAN POE LETTERS

THIS FIRST EDITION FOR THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA IS LIMITED TO 1550 COPIES OF WHICH 1500 NUMBERED COPIES ARE FOR SALE

No.

684



EDGAR ALLAN POE LETTERS TILL NOW UNPUBLISHED

IN THE VALENTINE MUSEUM
RICHMOND, VIRGINIA

INTRODUCTORY ESSAY AND COMMENTARY
BY
MARY NEWTON STANARD

WITH FAC-SIMILES OF ALL LETTERS
AND 15 ILLUSTRATIONS

Edgar Allan Poe

PHILADELPHIA & LONDON
J. B. LIPPINCOTT COMPANY
1925

COPYRIGHT, 1925, BY THE VALENTINE MUSEUM

PRINTED BY J. B. LIPPINCOTT COMPANY
AT THE WASHINGTON SQUARE PRESS
PHILADELPHIA, U. S. A.

INTRODUCTION

NEVER until now has been seen on printed page a letter that passed between Edgar Allan Poe and the man who—when Poe was two years and eleven months old—became his father by adoption.

Wherefore everything that has been written about that most important element in the formation of the poet's character and development of his genius—relations between him and his foster-parents—has been largely guesswork.

So much tradition has been handed down about Poe that he has become almost a legendary figure in American life. His schoolmates and playmates in Richmond, his classmates at the University of Virginia and at West Point, his friends—men and women—and, alas, his enemies have furnished a mass of recollections which biographers have sifted and sifted in attempts to find the real man, or have woven into romances.

But here is his bared soul!

Here in a book that is concerned with a packet of till now unpublished letters and the flood of new light they throw upon the character and career of the mysterious man, poet, thinker, writer of tales, essayist, whose readers, it seems, must know where he was and what he was doing and thinking every day in the forty years of his life.

And here gaps in his strange life-story are filled up.

It is a life-story founded upon a problem of acute human interest already age-old when it was made the theme of the Parable of the Prodigal Son, and the appearance of fresh details furnished by the time-yellowed letters will call for revision of every previous treatment of the period covered by these intimate, illuminating documents.

Poe's foster-parents died in the Allan house which stood on Main and Fifth Streets, in Richmond, nearly a century ago—Frances Valentine Allan in 1828 and John Allan (after a second marriage with Louisa G. Patterson) in 1834.

Sometime after John Allan's death his second, and surviving, wife gave to George Mayo, of Richmond, the husband of her niece, twenty-seven letters from Poe to his foster-father (on the reverse of some of which were notes by John Allan himself) and also one letter to Mr. Allan from Poe's Aunt, Mrs. Maria Clemm, two of Mr. Allan's own copies of letters from himself to Poe and one letter from Poe to Sergeant Graves, which later came into Mr. Allan's hands.

In April, 1882, Mr. Mayo transferred this packet of letters to Mann S. Valentine, a cousin of Poe's foster-mother and the founder of the Valentine Museum, with the following certificate:

"I hereby certify that the twenty-eight letters written to John Allan, Esq., by Edgar A. Poe, his adopted son, and one letter from

Mrs. Clemm, and also a copy of a letter from Mr. Allan to Edgar Allan Poe, now in the possession of Mann S. Valentine, Esq., were given to me by Mrs. Louisa G. Allan, wife of said John Allan and are authentic and original letters written by Edgar A. Poe and Mrs. Clemm and John Allan.

"George W. Mayo.

Richmond, Va.
April 4, 1882."

Mr. Mayo made a mistake in enumerating the letters —attributing one of Mr. Allan's two letters to Poe and overlooking the one from Poe to Sergeant Graves.

The reader will naturally wonder why there are only two letters from the University of Virginia. The answer may be found in the fact that while Mr. Allan made a habit of preserving his own correspondence he did not preserve his wife's. If Edgar wrote to his adored and adoring foster-mother from the University or anywhere else his letters to her are not known to exist.

Study of the letters indicates that they are the only correspondence, published or unpublished, between Poe and his foster-father. There is, after Poe left the University, evidence of one missing letter, and one only.[1] Poe often mentions the time that has elapsed since he last wrote or since he heard, and Mr. Allan's comments on the reverse of letters also account for time. Furthermore, the subject matter of the letters provides internal evidence that there is one, but no other missing com-

[1] Written from Baltimore, June 10, 1829.

munication. Mr. Allan kept them carefully and they have come down to us intact, save for slight mutilation of a page or two. Seldom have they been seen or read. They have lain silent and dark in safes, to be taken out at long intervals and shown, confidentially, to one or more persons.

Now, a hundred years after the first of them was written and ninety-two years after the last, they will speak to the world.

And the world must be the judge between father and son.

No advocate will appear for either. In compliance with the wish of the custodians of the letters—the Trustees of the Valentine Museum—the editor presents them with only such comment as is necessary to fit them into the pattern of the authenticated incidents—not traditions—of Poe's life-story, and with such notes as seem necessary to explain allusions.

Abundant proof that even in quite early days these letters were unknown and unread is furnished by Mrs. Louisa G. Allan, who owned them, but evidently had not examined them for years, if ever. In a letter to Colonel Thomas H. Ellis, the son of her husband's partner, which was printed in the *Richmond Standard* and reproduced in the *Richmond News Illustrated Saturday Magazine*, July 28, 1900, she says:

"Mr. Poe had not lived under Mr. Allan's roof for

two years before my marriage; and no one knew his whereabouts; his letters which were very scarce, were dated from St. Petersburg Russia, although he had enlisted in the army at Boston."

It will be seen that none of the letters are dated from foreign places and the one from Fort Moultrie, December 1, 1828, explains where Poe was during the nearly two years of his army service, following his enlistment in Boston, May 26, 1827. This and the letters of March 19 and 20, 1827, make it plain that Poe had been on no sea voyages other than those from Richmond to Boston and from Boston to Charleston, and that no letters passed between Poe and Mr. Allan after those referred to of March 19 and 20, 1827—from the Court House Tavern, Richmond, requesting that his trunk be sent to him—until the Fort Moultrie letter, December, 1828. These two important letters concerning the quarrel with Mr. Allan which made Poe homeless, are without dates in the originals, but after an interesting chase the editor has been able to supply the days of the month and year on which they were written.

The letters a tragic tale unfold. A tale of a loving father and son sentenced by relentless Fate, as the boy grew out of sunny childhood into restless, dreaming youth, to incurable incompatibility. Yes, *son*, for Poe had lost his actor-father at too early an age to retain any recollection of him and had been the indulged only child of

the Allan home all of his remembered life. It is a tragedy to make many a father's heart ache as he reads it, and fill him with questioning whether or not he gives his own boy full understanding, and to fill many a son with regretful wonder as to whether he has appreciated the father's attempts to do all that was best for him.

It is interesting to note that in many of the letters the form of address is "Dear Pa" and conclusion (generally, "Yours affectionately") is occasionally, "Your affectionate son." During times of strained relation the terms become the more formal "Dear Sir" and "Yours etc."

In addition to the letters which appear in this volume, the Valentine Museum possesses part of the unpublished correspondence of John Allan during the nearly five years he spent in London, conducting there, under the name of Allan and Ellis, a branch of the firm of Ellis and Allan, merchants of Richmond. His wife Frances, her sister Miss Anne (or "Nancy") Valentine and the six-year old Edgar Poe—then known as Edgar Allan or "Master Allan"—were with him and his letters written and received contain affectionate references to "little Edgar" which indicate that the child was an important member of the family. This impression is strengthened by allusions to Poe in other letters home from Mr. Allan, first discovered by Professor Killis Campbell, of

the University of Texas, in the mass of Ellis and Allan business papers and office books in the Manuscript Department of the Library of Congress.

These finds of Professor Campbell *combined* with the data supplied by Mr. Allan's London letters in the Valentine Museum add many new details and correct many errors in the sketchy picture of Poe's childhood drawn by his biographers. Professor Campbell has given the results of his research in an article in *Modern Language Notes*, April, 1910, another in the *Sewanee Review*, April, 1912, and another in *The Dial*, February 17, 1916, and also in the Introduction to his volume, "The Poems of Edgar Allan Poe," 1917. All of the standard biographies of Poe had been published before Professor Campbell's discoveries were made known, and could receive no benefit from them. The editor's use of the Ellis-Allan papers is in most cases from photostat copies of the originals, procured from the Library of Congress.[1]

The earliest document from these papers containing mention of Poe antedates the sojourn of the Allan family in England. It is a letter from Edgar's Aunt Eliza Poe, of Baltimore, to Mrs. Allan, written little more than a year after Edgar's adoption. It is the only letter known to exist either to or from Mrs. Allan and here it is:

[1] With the kind advice of Professor Campbell and aid of Mrs. John St. C. Brookes of Washington, who located the desired material for the editor.

"Baltimore, February 8th, 1813.

"Tis the Aunt of Edgar that addresses Mrs. Allen for the second time, impressed with the idea that a letter if received could not remain unacknowledged so long as from the month of July, she is induced to write again in order to inquire in her family's as well as in her own name after the health of the Child of her Brother, as well as that of his adopted Parents. I cannot suppose my dear Mrs. Allen that a heart possessed of such original humanity as yours must without doubt be could so long keep in suspense the anxious inquiries made through the medium of my letter by the Grand Parents of the Orphan of an unfortunate son, surely ere this allowing that you did not wish to commence a correspondence with one who is utterly unknown to you had you received it Mr. Allen would have written to my Father or Brother if it had been only to let them know how he was, but I am confident you never received it, for two reasons, the first is that not having the pleasure of knowing your christian name, I merely addressed it to Mrs. Allen of Richmond, the second is as near as I can recollect you were about the time I wrote to you at the Springs where Mr. Douglas saw you. Permit me my dear madam to thank you for your kindness to the little Edgar—he is truly the Child of fortune to be placed under the fostering care of the amiable Mr. and Mrs. Allen. Oh how few meet with such a lot—the Almighty

Father of the Universe grant that he may never abuse the kindness he has received and *that* from those who were not bound by any ties except those that the feeling and humane heart dictates—I fear that I have too long intruded on your patience, will you if so have the goodness to forgive me—and dare I venture to flatter myself with the hope that this will be received with any degree of pleasure or that you will gratify me so much as to answer it—give my love to the dear little Edgar and tell him tis his Aunt Eliza who writes this to you. My mother and family desire to be affectionately remembered to Mr. Allen and yourself—Henry frequently speaks of this little Brother and expresses a great desire to see him, tell him he sends his very best love to him and is greatly pleased to hear that he is so good and also so pretty A Boy as Mr. Douglas represented him to be —I feel as if I were wrighting to A Sister and can scarcely even at the risk of your displeasure prevail on myself to lay aside my pen—with the hope of your indulgence in pardoning my temerity I remain my dear Mrs. Allen yours

with the greatest respect

Eliza Poe

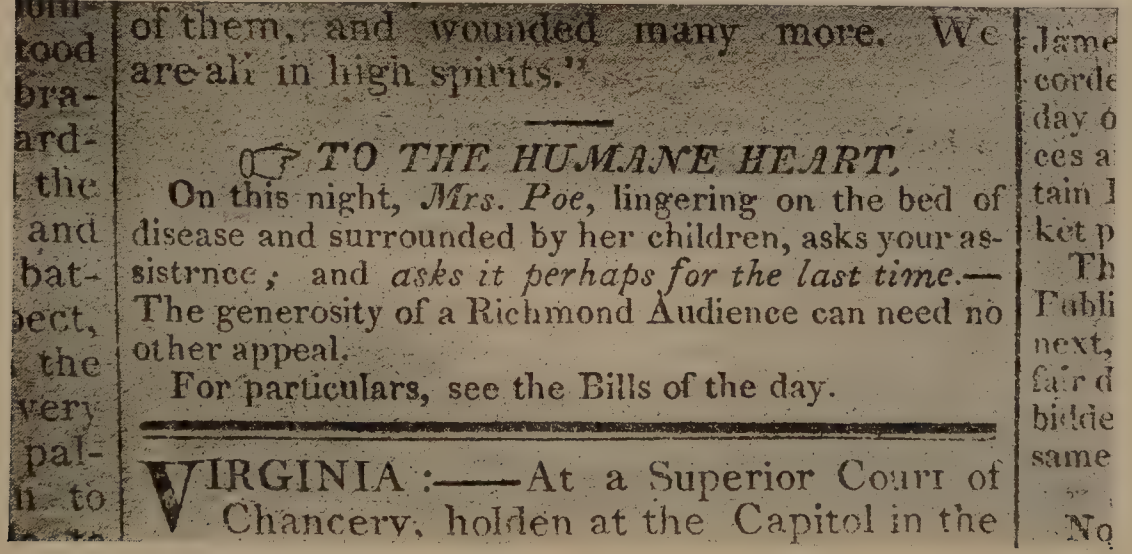
Mrs. Allen the kind Benefactress
of the infant Orphan Edgar, Allen, Poe."

Both the letters in the Valentine Museum and those in the Library of Congress show that when the Allans

went abroad they made visits to several homes of Mr. Allan's relatives in his native Scotland before going to London. They sailed from Norfolk, Virginia, June 22, 1815, and on the day after their arrival in England, July 29, 1815, Mr. Allan wrote to his partner, Charles Ellis, in Richmond (Library of Congress collection), describing the voyage across the Atlantic. The ladies had suffered severely in crossing the ocean but Edgar had been only "a little sick and soon recovered."

In a letter from Greenock, Scotland, September 21, 1815 (Library of Congress) Mr. Allan writes: "Edgar says, 'Pa say something for me. Say I was not afraid coming across the sea.'"

A letter dated October 24, 1815 (Valentine Museum Collection) received by Mr. Allan not long after his arrival in London from his brother-in-law, Allan Fowlds, of Kilmarnock, in Ayrshire, acknowledges "favors of the 12th ultimo," regrets that the Allans had not found satisfactory "lodgings" and sends "warmest love" from his whole household to Mr. and Mrs. Allan, Miss Valentine and "little Edgar". Contents of this letter show that the visits of the Allans in Scotland had included homes of relatives in Kilmarnock and Glasgow and at "Flower Bank," the home of their Galt cousins. On January 24, 1816 Mr. Fowlds wrote (Valentine Collection) to inform Mr. Allan that he had sent him "a box containing 4 mutton hams" of "Mrs. Fowlds'



of them, and wounded many more. We are all in high spirits."

☞ *TO THE HUMANE HEART.*

On this night, *Mrs. Poe*, lingering on the bed of disease and surrounded by her children, asks your assistrnce; and *asks it perhaps for the last time.*— The generosity of a Richmond Audience can need no other appeal.

For particulars, see the Bills of the day.

VIRGINIA:——At a Superior Court of Chancery, holden at the Capitol in the

ADVERTISEMENT IN THE *RICHMOND ENQUIRER*, NOVEMBER 29, 1811 OF THE LAST BENEFIT FOR EDGAR POE'S MOTHER

own curing," adding: "Mrs. Fowlds and the children and your sister Elizabeth beg their love to you and Mrs. Allan and little Edgar, in which I beg leave to join them."

These letters prove that Edgar accompanied the Allans on their visits to Scotland and (contrary to some of the traditions) went on with them to England. Other correspondence between the Allans and their Scotch cousins and their friends in Richmond—even business letters—take pains to mention "little Edgar" in affectionate terms. In a business letter (Valentine Collection) to "Dear Uncle" Galt in Richmond, March 27, 1816, Mr. Allan says that his wife is in poor health but "Nancy, Edgar and myself are all well and the whole unite in our best respects to you."

Same to same, August 15, 1816: "Frances, Nancy and Edgar beg to be kindly remembered to you."

Same to same, January 30, 1817: "Mrs. Allan, Miss Nancy and Edgar desire their kindest regards." Same to same, January 28, 1820: "You are among the few that Edgar recollects perfectly. Uncle Galt and Uncle Roland are his old Friends." In a business letter dated Richmond, August 12, 1816, Mr. Allan's partner, Mr. Ellis, depressed at low prices of tobacco and losses resulting, says: "Margaret, Thomas and James unite with me in every good wish for you, Mrs. Allan and little Ed."

Critics everywhere have been astonished at the presence in an "early poem" of the classic quality of Poe's lyric, "To Helen." Two of its lines:

> "The glory that was Greece
> And the grandeur that was Rome,"

have become part of the English language wherever it is spoken. There have been many theories regarding the germ of this famous couplet. Do these Edgar Allan Poe Letters reveal it?

The London home with which the letters in both the Valentine Museum and the Library of Congress identify the Allans was Number 47 Southampton Row, Russell Square,[1] which London maps show was not far from the British Museum. The Elgin Marbles were placed in the Museum in 1816—not long after the Allans became its neighbours—and the family of Virginians could not have escaped awareness of the great sensation made by their arrival. Does the world owe these lines to a visit of the thoughtful boy of seven to the Museum, to see the sculptures from old Athens?

In a letter (Library of Congress) from Mr. Allan soon after he had settled down in London the writer pictures his family and himself: "On an October evening," sitting "before a snug fire in a nice little sitting parlor in No. 47 Southampton Row." "Frances" and "Nancy" are sewing, "while Edgar is reading a

[1] For which a monthly rental of £25 4s was paid.

little story book." The Allan and Ellis business office was at 18 Basinghall Street.

The Library of Congress letters throw much new light on Poe's early education. Mrs. Weiss in her "Home Life of Poe" mentions his having been to an "infant school" in Richmond prior to his visit to England, and nothing more of his earliest school-days was known. The Library collection has a letter of November 17, 1817, to Mr. Allan, from William Ewing, a Richmond schoolmaster, by whom the youngster had evidently been taught before going abroad. He writes: "I trust Edgar continues to be well and to like his school as much as he used to when in Richmond. He is a charming boy and it will give me pleasure to hear how he is and where you have put him to school, and also what he is reading."

Mr. Allan replied March 21, 1818:

"Accept my thanks for the solicitude you have so kindly expressed about Edgar and the family. Edgar is a fine boy and I have no reason to complain of his progress."

Letters quoted by Professor Campbell in his article "New Notes on Poe's Early Years"—*The Dial*, Feb. 17, 1916—but which do not appear in the biographies, prove that Poe did not, as had been generally believed, spend the whole five years in England under the Rev. Mr. Bransby at the Manor House School, in the London

suburb of Stoke-Newington whose ancient shrubberies and quaint parish church were pictured in his maturer years in his tale of "William Wilson." But that he was first placed at a boarding school in London itself, at 146 Sloane Street, Chelsea Square—shown by maps of the city to be about three miles from Russell Square and near the present South Kensington Museum. This school was kept by the Misses Dubourg, sisters of George Dubourg, bookkeeper for Allan and Ellis. The Library of Congress collection contains a bill for board and tuition for "Master Allan" to "midsummer 1816", at the Misses Dubourg's school, amounting to "£12.2.0." Its items include a "separate bed," a "seat in Church," a "Prayer Book," and "Church Catechism explained."

Professor Lewis Chase (now of Peking University) author of "Poe and His Poetry," 1913, in a letter to *The Dial*, April 25, 1916, commenting on Professor Campbell's "finds," says: "They prove that the seven year old Poe must have known the aspect of Piccadilly and Hyde Park as well as of Russell Square and Newington Green." In a "Postscript" to this letter (*The Dial* May 25, 1916) he adds that the school at 146 Sloane St., Chelsea, kept by the Misses Dubourg, and attended by Poe in 1816, was in a small private house of ordinary type erected about the beginning of the 19th Century and removed in 1885 to make way for the present building which is also number 146, and whose

ground floor is (or was in 1916) occupied by a branch of Parr's Bank.

In a chatty letter to Mr. Allan from Richmond, January 11, 1816 (Valentine Museum collection), the writer, Miss (or Mrs.) Catherine Wood, asks: "How is my dear Mrs. Allan, Nancy and Edgar? Don't they look healthy and as sweet as ever?"

Mrs. Allan was not "healthy" during the stay in England and in the summer of 1817 her husband took her to Cheltingham, leaving Edgar behind—apparently with the Dubourgs. In a letter to his bookkeeper, George Dubourg, August 14, 1817 (Valentine Museum collection) he says: "Enclosed is a letter for Edgar who, if he writes at all, must direct to his Mama, as I do not think she will return with me, as finding her health much improved, she wishes to give the waters a trial of greater duration."

In a "sketch of a letter intended for Mrs. Galt," March 6, 1817 (Valentine Museum collection) Mr. Allan says: "Edgar is at school".

In letters home (Library of Congress) he wrote June 22, 1818: "Edgar is a fine boy and reads Latin pretty sharply;" September 28, 1819: "Edgar is growing wonderfully and enjoys a good reputation and is both able and willing to receive instruction;" November 27, 1819: "Edgar is in the country at school. He is a very fine Boy and a good scholar."

Among the papers in the Valentine Museum are memoranda of sundries furnished "Mast. Allan" at Manor House School, Stoke-Newington, and a receipted bill amounting to £33.2.11 for "Mas" Allan's expenses there to Christmas 1818, with notice that Christmas holiday would terminate January 25, 1819. Among items charged for, in addition to board, tuition, and books, are "pew and charity sermon," lessons in dancing and amounts paid the shoe-maker and hair-dresser; music and drawing were not taken this first year.

It is interesting to recall that after Poe had become a recognized poet and writer of prose tales he immortalized in "William Wilson" the Manor House School and the Village of Stoke-Newington, and even gave "Wilson's" school master the name of "Bransby"—as in the "Murders of the Rue Morgue" he named a French laundress "Pauline Dubourg." Thus he has shown us the part which the quaint village filled with atmosphere and charm (long since swallowed up by London) had in developing his youthful imagination, and the deep impressions still held by his memory of places and persons not seen since he was ten years old.

The Ellis-Allan papers in the Library of Congress and the Allan-Ellis letters in the Valentine Museum explode two theories in regard to Poe. Though it was long held that Poe was adopted by rich people who brought him up in luxury, in recent years it has been the fashion to say that

the Allans were poor until the will of a wealthy uncle, Mr. Galt (the "Dear Uncle" of Mr. Allan's letters) enabled them to buy, from Joseph Gallego, the Randolph Mansion at Main and Fifth Streets and surround themselves with the elegancies of life. The fact that John Allan at one time lived over his place of business in Richmond, was cited as a proof of poverty, but many prosperous business men who, with their families, were prominent in the society of Virginia's capital in those days of the simple life dwelt over their business places. The papers of his firm show him to have been prosperous until reverses the last year of his stay in England sent him home in reduced circumstances. The death of Mr. Galt, whose will made the Allan's rich, came in the spring of 1823, when Poe was fourteen years old.

Returning from England, the Allan family reached New York, July 21, 1820 (after thirty-six days at sea) and Richmond, August 2, 1820. They could not occupy their own house because it was leased, so they spent several months in the roomy and picturesque home of Mr. Ellis, senior member of the firm of Ellis and Allan, at the south-west corner of Second and Franklin Streets—which has long since given way to a more modern residence. Later, they moved into a dormer-windowed, frame cottage on Clay Street, at Fifth. The Ellis-Allan letters confirm the tradition and statements of biographers that Poe was placed under Joseph H. Clarke at his "English and Classi-

cal School", and the Valentine Museum letters prove that he was later under Mr. Clarke's successor, William Burke. So he was given the best educational advantages Richmond then afforded.

Bills to Mr. Allan in the Library of Congress collection, for tuition of "son Edgar Poe" at Clarke's school in 1821 and 1822, show that in the latter year this boy of thirteen was reading Horace and Cicero.

Included in Mr. Allan's inheritance from "Uncle Galt" was a house at the corner of Fourteenth Street and Tobacco Alley—then a substantial and respectable residential section and this was the home of Edgar Allan Poe for two years before the move to Main and Fifth Streets, in the summer of 1825.

The second theory exploded concerns the personal relations between Poe and Mr. Allan. The letters which have been quoted show the place held by the child Edgar in his foster-father's affections. Contrary to the general impression that the first serious falling out between Mr. Allan and his adopted son followed Poe's year at the University, and was caused by dissipation there, it is evident that trouble between the two began at least as early as the fall of 1824, when Poe was fifteen. Proof appears in a letter (November 1, 1824) from Mr. Allan to Poe's sixteen year old brother, Henry, of Baltimore, filled with bitter denunciation of Edgar. Mr. Allan kept a copy of this letter and it has been quoted almost in full in Professor

Campbell's edition of Poe's Poems. What had caused the difference between the father and son is one of the Poe mysteries and will, probably never be solved, but Poe's letters home from the University, in 1826, here published, indicate that it had blown entirely over for the time being.

This book is arranged with especial consideration for the comfort of the reader. Nearly all editorial matter which does not appear in the Introduction is given in a series of Comments which serve as prefaces to single letters or to groups of letters too closely related to be considered separately. First comes the Comment, then the typescript of the entire letter or letters discussed therein.

Thus the reader approaches the letter already possessed of whatever light the editor has for him. To find it, his eye is not distracted by innumerable foot notes, nor does he have to hunt through an appendix.

Following the clearly printed typescript comes the real thing—the letter itself in fac-simile.

In thus reproducing *all* of the letters—each one of them complete, some with address on the back—their owners and their publishers not only give the most satisfactory assurance of genuineness of the material, but are doing the nearest thing possible to placing the century-old originals in the hands of owners and readers of these Edgar Allan Poe Letters, Till Now Unpublished.

M. N. S.

ELIZABETH ARNOLD POE
Mother of Edgar Allan Poe
From a miniature

CONTENTS

Introduction 3

LETTER PAGE

I. Edgar Allan Poe, University of Virginia, May 1826, to John Allan 37
Fac-simile 41

II. Edgar Allan Poe, University of Virginia, September 21, 1826, to John Allan 43
Fac-simile 47

III. Edgar Allan Poe, The Court House Tavern, Monday, [March 19, 1827], to John Allan 55
Fac-simile 59

IV. Edgar Allan Poe, The Court House Tavern, Tuesday, [March 20, 1827], to John Allan 63
Fac-simile 65

V. John Allan, Richmond, [March 20, 1827], to Edgar Allan Poe 67
Fac-simile 69

VI. Edgar Allan Poe, Fort Moultrie, Sullivan's Island, S. C., December 1, 1828, to John Allan 75
Fac-simile 79

VII. Edgar Allan Poe, Fortress Monroe, Virginia, December 22, 1828, to John Allan 87
Fac-simile 91

VIII. Edgar Allan Poe, Fortress Monroe, Virginia, February 4, 1829, to John Allan 99
Fac-simile 103

IX. Edgar Allan Poe, Fortress Monroe, Virginia, March 10, 1829, to John Allan 113
Fac-simile 115

X. John Allan, Richmond, May 18, 1829, to Edgar Allan Poe 121
Fac-simile 123

XI. Edgar Allan Poe, Baltimore, May 20, 1829, to John Allan 125
Fac-simile 127

XII. Edgar Allan Poe, Baltimore, May 29, 1829, to John Allan 133
Fac-simile 137

LETTER PAGE

XIII. Edgar Allan Poe, Baltimore, June 25, 1829, to John Allan 145
Fac-simile 149

XIV. Edgar Allan Poe, Baltimore, July 15, 1829, to John Allan 153
Fac-simile 155

XV. Edgar Allan Poe, Baltimore, July 26, 1829, to John Allan 157
Fac-simile 163

XVI. Edgar Allan Poe, Baltimore, August 4, 1829 to John Allan 171
Fac-simile 175

XVII. Edgar Allan Poe, Baltimore, August 10, 1829, to John Allan 181
Fac-simile 185

XVIII. Edgar Allan Poe, Baltimore, October 30, 1829, to John Allan 193
Fac-simile 197

XIX. Edgar Allan Poe, Baltimore, November 12, 1829, to John Allan 203
Fac-simile 205

XX. Edgar Allan Poe, Baltimore, November 18, 1829 to John Allan 213
Fac-simile 215

XXI. Edgar Allan Poe, Richmond, May 3, 1830, to Sergeant Samuel Graves 221
Fac-simile 225

XXII. Edgar Allan Poe, West Point, June 28, 1830, to John Allan 233
Fac-simile 237

XXIII. Edgar Allan Poe, West Point, November 6, 1830, to John Allan 243
Fac-simile 247

XXIV. Edgar Allan Poe, West Point, January 3, 1831, to John Allan 253
Fac-simile 259

XXV. Edgar Allan Poe, New York, Febrary 21, 1831, to John Allan 267
Fac-simile 271

XXVI. Edgar Allan Poe, Baltimore, October 16, 1831, to John Allan 279
Fac-simile 283

LETTER PAGE

XXVII. Edgar Allan Poe, Baltimore, November 18, 1831, to John Allan 291
Fac-simile 293

XXVIII. Mrs. Clemm, Baltimore, December 5, 1831, to John Allan 295
Fac-simile 297

XXIX. Edgar Allan Poe, Baltimore, December 15, 1831, to John Allan 299
Fac-simile 303

XXX. Edgar Allan Poe, Baltimore, December 29, 1831, to John Allan 305
Fac-simile 307

XXXI. Edgar Allan Poe, Baltimore, April 12, 1833, to John Allan 313
Fac-simile 315

Bill for Edgar Allan Poe at Manor House School 319
Fac-simile 321

Bill for Edgar Allan Poe at Manor House School 323
Fac-simile 325

Bill for Edgar Allan Poe at Manor House School 327
Fac-simile 329

ILLUSTRATIONS

	PAGE
Edgar Allan Poe . . . . . *Frontispiece*	
Advertisement "To the Humane Heart"	12
Elizabeth Arnold Poe	22
Home of Charles Ellis	34
The University of Virginia	44
Doorway of Poe's Room, University of Virginia	56
John Allan	68
Boston in 1828	78
Fort Moultrie	88
Fortress Monroe—1829	100
Frances Valentine Allan	114
Baltimore in 1828	134
Poe's Trunk	182
Home of the Allans, Richmond, Virginia	212
United States Military Academy, West Point	244

LETTER NUMBER ONE

EDGAR ALLAN POE, UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA, MAY, 1826
TO JOHN ALLAN

LETTER NUMBER TWO

EDGAR ALLAN POE, UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA, SEPTEMBER 21, 1826
TO JOHN ALLAN

COMMENT

One result of Mr. Allan's inheritance was the fulfilment of Edgar's dream of going to college. He had reached the top of Burke's school in 1825, and in March Mr. Allan removed him and had him coached by tutors for the University of Virginia, at Charlottesville, then in its first session, with a faculty of accomplished scholars selected by Jefferson—most of them Europeans.

Poe matriculated on February 14th, 1826 (which that year fell on Tuesday) and in accordance with the elective system inaugurated by Jefferson, made choice of the course of study which most appealed to him—the Schools of Ancient and Modern Languages—Professor Long, for the ancient and Professor Blaettermann, for the modern.

In the announcement for the year the School of Ancient Languages offered (in addition to Latin and Greek) "Hebrew, rhetoric, belles-lettres, ancient history and geography" and the School of Modern Languages, "French, Spanish, Italian, German, and the English language in its Anglo-Saxon form; also modern history and modern geography." Poe was one of 107 students to "elect" ancient languages and 90 to elect modern. At a Faculty meeting at the end of the session—December 15, 1826—he was reported by Professor Long among nineteen students who "excelled in senior Latin" and by Professor Blaettermann among eight who "excelled in senior French."

Poe was, for a boy of seventeen, an unusually good Latin and French scholar at the time of entering. That he had a bent toward history as well as languages and did some solid reading is seen from the books the register shows he obtained from the Library during the ten months' session. They were Rollin's "Histoire Ancienne" and "Histoire Romaine," Robertson's "America," Marshall's "Washington," Voltaire's "Histoire Particuliere," Dufief's "Nature Displayed." Note that the boy chose the French editions of Rollin and Voltaire.

All of Poe's biographers say (on authority of his reminiscent college mates) that he first shared with a Richmond chum—Miles George—a room on the Lawn, as the campus has always been called, and that it was only after a fist fight (followed by shaking hands in proper form) that he moved into number 13 West Range —which is kept as a memorial of him. The tradition that he decorated this room with charcoal sketches illustrating Byron's works has to support it the testimony of his friend, Mrs. Shelton (*Appleton's Journal*, May, 1878) that "he drew beautifully." Evidences of Byron's influence in his earliest published work, and his reference in Letter Eleven to having formerly made Byron his model.

The two letters of 1826 are the only ones written from the University which are known to have been preserved either in print or in manuscript. His earliest published letter until now was that to John Neal in the fall of 1829.[1] The most striking thing about these letters home is their affectionate tone and the boyish candor and confidence with which he chatters of college doings to his father. In each letter he speaks of Mr. Allan's having been to see him—whether referring to one or two visits does not appear, nor whether he came partly on business. The firm of Ellis and Allan had an agent in Charlottesville. In the September letter the expression of hope that Mr. Allan may find it convenient to come again at examination time suggests cordial relations and that the writer had then—three months before vacation—nothing to conceal. His acknowledgment in Letter One of "an uniform coat" is a reminder that in the earliest days of the University uniforms were obligatory and that a drill master was employed. This should not have been distasteful to Poe, who had been a lieutenant in the Junior Morgan Volunteers which made a part of Lafayette's escort during the visit of the Marquis to Richmond, in 1824. Notwithstanding any reputation as a pugilist the encounter with Miles George may have given him, his accounts of fights are evidently from the point of

[1] See Comment on Letter Number Twenty Four.

view of an onlooker, not of a participant and he was not one of the fifty "indicted" who took to the woods to escape the grand jury.

The Norfolk boys he names as coming under censure of the Faculty were from well known families still prominent there. Turner Dixon was of a prominent Port Royal family and Wickliffe of one equally so in Kentucky. The names of Barclay and Carter were representative ones in their sections of Virginia. James Albert Clarke, of Manchester, in after years contributed recollections of Poe to Ingram's important biography. Professor James A. Harrison compiled from the University records and published in his Life of Poe a list of forty of Poe's college mates who became more or less distinguished in later years—among them clergymen and jurists—notwithstanding the notoriety as sowers of wild oats won by many of them in the days of their youth.

The University, with its white-columned buildings, in which Thomas Jefferson had seen his dream of the Grecian ideal of beauty come true and his plan of self-government for youths seeking to find themselves and to develop their talents materialize, in a setting of Virginia's blue mountains and green hills, offered much to charm a boy of Poe's poetic temperament, original mind and independent spirit. Traditions of his wild career there are evidently a mixture of fact and fiction. The late Charles W. Kent, Edgar Allan Poe Professor of English at the University, in a discussion in *The Bookman*, January 1917, of "Poe's Student Days at the University of Virginia," has shown that there was much drinking and gambling in that year among boys in their teens, turned loose in accordance with Jefferson's ideas that they should be treated as men, and that the Faculty minutes are filled with trials of students—but *contain no mention* of *Poe*, who was not included in a long list of students summoned before the local grand jury.

The Faculty minutes also record visits of various students to confectionaries where "mint sling," toddy, Madeira, eggnog,

"peach and honey" and other liquors were served, but Poe's name is *not* mentioned. Indeed, after his matriculation, no allusion to Poe other than as a student passing his final examinations with distinction appears upon the minutes until December 20, 1826 (after the close of the session) when his name is given among boys called as witnesses against Charlottesville hotel keepers charged with drinking and gambling with students. Then the Faculty report of testimony taken reads:

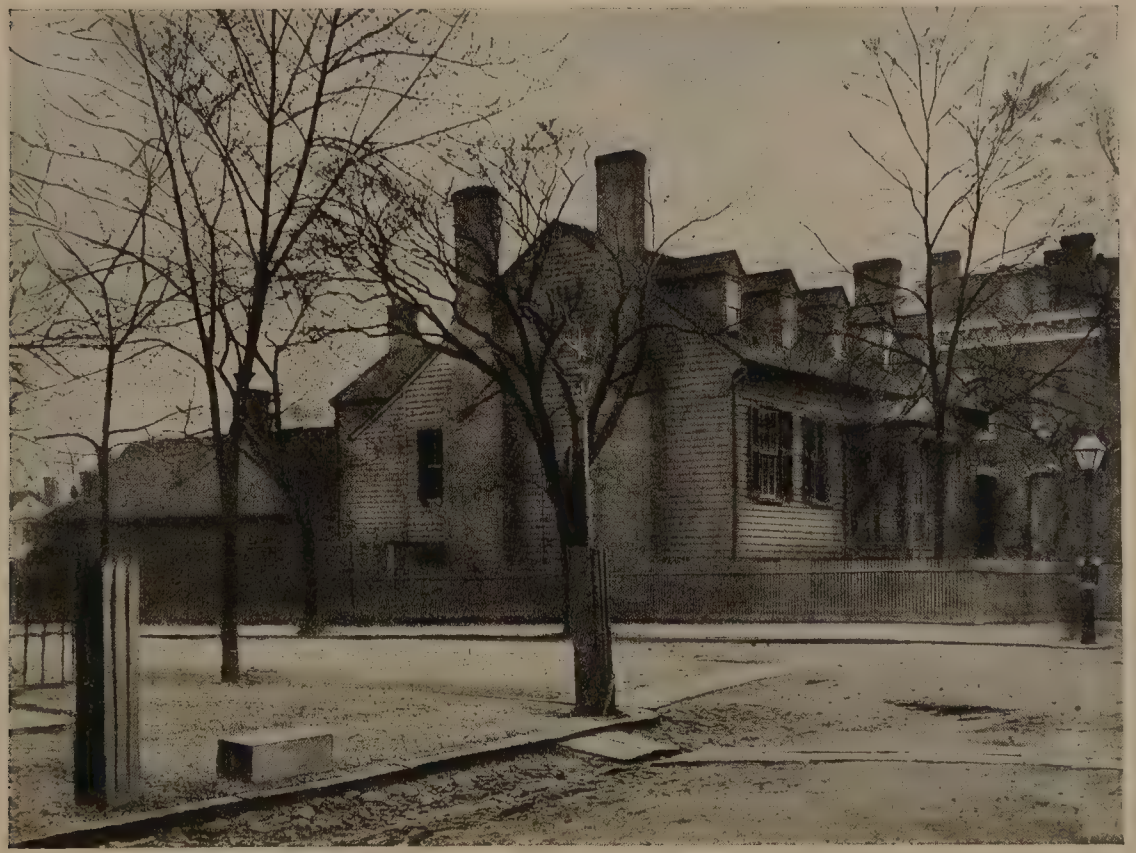
"Edgar Poe never heard until now of any hotel keepers playing cards or drinking with students."[1]

Yet Poe himself declared years afterward, in a memorandum for Rufus Griswold's use, as his literary executor, that he had when at the University "led a very dissipated life—the college, at that period being shamefully dissolute."

There are other evidences that he played cards at the University—not very cleverly it would seem from his reported losses. Whether the amount was so large as tradition says—$2000.—is open to doubt, but Mr. Allan declined to pay these so called "debts of honour" and some other debts which he may have regarded as debts of extravagance.

The Valentine Museum letters prove that these debts caused a breach between the father and son which never was healed. In letter number Twenty-four from West Point, Jan. 3, 1830, Poe pleads lack of funds to meet his college expenses as excuse for his gambling at the University. He says that expenses there were $350. per annum "at the lowest estimate;" that sums he had to pay in advance were $50. for board, $60. for attendance upon two professors, $15. for room rent, $12. for a bed, $12. for room furniture, and that the amount furnished him made it impossible for him to avoid going into debt. In an advertisement in the Richmond *Enquirer*, Jan. 24, 1827 (the year after Poe was at the University) the following list of charges is given:

[1] Dr. Philip Alexander Bruce, author of the authoritative "History of the University of Virginia," in 4 vols. (1921), assures the editor that nothing concerning Poe appears on the records beyond the facts contained in this comment.



By the courtesy of Misses Munford and Mrs. W. S. Robertson

HOME OF CHARLES ELLIS

Franklin and Second Streets, Richmond, where the Allans and Edgar Poe spent several months on their return from England

For classes under two professors $30.00 each	$60.00
For board, bedding, furniture, candles, washing and attendance (servant)	150.00
Rent of dormitory $16.00, or one half for two	8.00
Participation in public apartments, library, etc.	15.00
	$233.00

In the letter quoted from West Point (Number Twenty Four) Poe reminds Mr. Allan that toward the close of the session he was sent $100., but says that that amount was insufficient to be of any service in "extricating" him from his difficulties. He tried to borrow more to add to it, but failing in this, says: "I became desperate, and gambled—until I finally involved myself irretrievably." Poe was always singularly neat in his dress and enjoyed good clothes when he was able to have them. Before going home at the end of the session he provided himself with an outfit rivaling that of the Lilies of the Field—and charged it to Mr. Allan. In the coat of superfine blue cloth with "best" gilt buttons, drab pantaloons (materials for which cost thirteen dollars) and a vest of black cut velvet, the handsome college boy of not yet eighteen with his perfect manners and dancing, must, have made a striking figure in the younger set of Richmond society during the Christmas holidays. A photostat copy of the bill (in the Library of Congress) of Samuel Leitch, Charlottesville merchant, for materials for this suit enables the reader to visualize young Edgar in the dashing raiment in which he was evidently *not* an acceptable sight in Mr. Allan's eyes for he refused to pay the bill of sixty-eight dollars for the cloth and trimmings, and the Ellis-Allan papers show that Mr. Leitch was still trying to collect it a year and a half later. Whether or not Mr. Allan had authorized Edgar's ordering any clothes from Leitch (who had been Ellis and Allan's Charlottesville agent) or the boy was gambling to reinstate himself in the favor of his lost sweetheart—Elmira Royster—does not appear. But the father was evidently incensed at the size of the bill. The Library of Congress papers contain reminders of at least two other

unpaid bills for Poe at the University, and explode the tradition that Mr. Allan paid everything but the gambling debts. One of these reminders (from Edward G. Crump) will appear later, the other, in form of a letter to "John Allan, Esq., Richmond," follows:

"1st May 1827

"Dear Sir:—

I presume when *you sent* Mr. Poe to the University of Virginia you felt bound to pay all of his necessary expenses. One is that each young man is expected to have a servant to attend his room. Mr. Poe did not board with me but as I had hired a first rate servant who cost me a high price, I consider him under greater obligations to pay me for the price of my servant. I have written you two letters and have never received an answer to either. I beg again, Sir, that you will send me the small amount due. I am distressed for money, and I am informed you are Rich both in purse and Honour.

Yrs. respectfully, Geo. W. Spotswood."

Probably these and other bills which Edgar made and (contrary to tradition) Mr. Allan declined to pay, were deciding factors in his refusal to send the boy back to the University and contributing causes of the quarrel (alluded to in Letters Three and Four) which cost Edgar Poe the home that had been his harbour since babyhood.

LETTER NUMBER ONE

University May 1826

Dear Sir,

I this morning received the clothes you sent me, viz an uniform coat, six yards of striped cloth for pantaloons & four pair of socks—The coat is a beautiful one & fits me exactly—I thought it best not to write 'till I received the clothes—or I should have written before this—You have heard no doubt of the disturbances in College—Soon after you left here the Grand Jury met and put the students in a terrible fright—so much so that the lectures were unattended—and those whose names were upon the Sheriff's list—travelled off into the woods & mountains —taking their beds & provisions along with them—there were about 50 on the list—so you may suppose the College was very well thinn'd—this was the first day of the fright —the second day "A proclamation" was issued by the faculty forbidding "any student under pain of a major punishment to leave his dormitory between the hours of 8 & 10 A M—(at which time the Sheriffs would be about) or in any way to resist the lawful authority of the Sheriffs" —This order however was very little attended to—as the fear of the Faculty could not counterbalance that of the Grand Jury—most of the "indicted" ran off a second time into the woods—and upon an examination the next morning by the Faculty—Some were reprimanded—some

suspended—and one expelled—James Albert Clarke from Manchester (I went to school with him at Burke's) was suspended for two months. Armstead Carter from this neighbourhood, for the remainder of the session—And Thomas Barclay for ever—There have been several fights since you were here—One between Turner Dixon, and Blow from Norfolk excited more interest than any I have seen, for a common fight is so trifling an occurrence that no notice is taken of it—Blow got much the advantage in the scuffle—but Dixon posted him in very indecent terms—upon which the whole Norfolk party rose in arms—& nothing was talked off for a week, but Dixon's charge & Blow's explanation—every pillar in the University was white with scratched paper—Dixon made a physical attack upon Arthur Smith one of Blow's Norfolk friends —and a "very fine fellow"—he struck him with a large stone on one side of his head—whereupon Smith drew a pistol (which are all the fashion here) and had it not missed fire—would have put an end to the controversy—but so it was—it did miss fire—and the matter has since been more peaceably settled—as the Proctor engaged a Magistrate to bind the whole forces on both sides—over to the peace—

Give my love to Ma & Miss Nancy—& all my friends—

Will you be so good as to send me a copy of the Historiæ of Tacitus—it is a small volume—also some more soap—

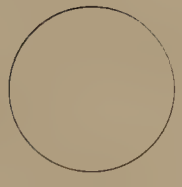
I remain
Yours affectionly
Edgar

E. A. Poe
University
May 1826

12 pr

12½

John Allan Esqr
Richmond,
Va



care Wm & Wm Galt Jr.

University May 1826

Dear Sir,

I this morning received the clothes you sent me, viz an uniform coat, six yards of striped cloth for pantaloons & four pair of socks. The coat is a beautiful one & fits me exactly. I thought it best not to write till I received the clothes - or I should have written before this. You have heard no doubt of the disturbances in College. Soon after you left here the grand Jury met and put the Students in a terrible fright - so much so that the lectures were unattended - and those whose names were upon the Sheriffs' list - travelled off into the woods & mountains - taking their beds & provisions along with them - There were about 50 on the list - so you may suppose the College was very well thinn'd - This was the first day of the fright - the second day, "A proclamation was issued by the faculty forbidding "any students under pain of a major punishment to leave his dormitory between the hours of 8 & 10 P.M. - (at which time the Sheriffs would be about) or in any way to resist the lawful authority of the Sheriffs." This order however was very little attended to - as the fear of the Faculty could not counterbalance that of the Grand Jury - most of the "indicted" ran off a second time into the woods and upon an examination the next morning by the Faculty - Some were reprimanded - some suspended -

and one expelled. James Albert Clarke from Manchester (I went to school with him at Barker's) was suspended for two months. Armistead Carter from this neighbourhood, for the remainder of the session - And Thomas Barclay, for ever -

We have had several fights since you were here - One between Turner Dixon, and Blow from Norfolk excited more interest than any I have seen for a common fight, is so trifling an occurrence that no notice is taken of it - Blow got much the advantage in the scuffle - but Dixon posted him in very indecent terms - upon which the whole Norfolk party rose in arms - & nothing was talked off for a week, but Dixon's charge - & Blow's explanation - every pillar in the University was white with scratched paper - Dixon made a physical attack upon Arthur Smith one of Blow's Norfolk friends - and a "very fine fellow." he struck him with a large stone on one side of his head - whereupon Smith drew a pistol (which are all the fashion here) and had it not misfired would have put an end to the controversy. but so it was - it did misfire - and the matter has since been more peaceably settled - as the Proctor engaged a Magistrate to bind the whole forces on both sides - over to the peace -

Give my love to Ma & Miss Nancy - & all my friends - & Will you be so good as to send me a copy of the Historics of Tacitus - it is a small volume - also some more soap.

I remain
Yours affectionately
Edgar

LETTER NUMBER TWO

University. Septem^{r} 21st 1826

Dear Sir,

The whole college has been put in great consternation by the prospect of an examination—There is to be a general one on the first of December, which will occupy the time of the students till the fifteenth—the time for breaking up—It has not yet been determined whether there will be any diplomas, or doctor's degrees given—but I should hardly think there will be any such thing, as this is only the second year of the institution & in other colleges three and four years are required in order to take a degree—that is, that time is supposed to be necessary—altho they sometimes confer them before—if the applicants are qualified—

Tho' it will hardly be fair to examine those who have only been here one session, with those who have been here two—and some of whom have come from other colleges—still I suppose I shall have to stand my examination with the rest—

I have been studying a great deal in order to be prepared, and dare say I shall come off as well as the rest of them, that is—if I don't get frightened—Perhaps you will have some business up here about that time, and then you can judge for yourself—

They have nearly finished the Rotunda—The pillars

of the Portico are completed and it greatly improves the appearance of the whole—The books are removed into the library—and we have a very fine collection

We have had a great many fights up here lately—The faculty expelled Wickliffe last night for general bad conduct—but more especially for biting one of the student's arms with whom he was fighting—I saw the whole affair—it took place before my door—Wickliffe was much the stronger but not content with that—after getting the other completely in his power, he began to bite—I saw the arm afterwards—and it was really a serious matter—It was bitten from the shoulder to the elbow— and it is likely that pieces of flesh as large as my hand will be obliged to be cut out—He is from Kentucky —the same one that was in suspension when you were up here some time ago—Give my love to Ma and Miss Nancy—I remain,

Yours affectionatly

Edgar A Poe

THE UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA WHEN POE WAS A STUDENT

E. A Poe
University
21 Sept 1826

12½

Mr. Jno Allan
Richmond
Va

of Va

Galt Jr.

University Septem 21 1818

Dear Sir

The whole college has been put in great consternation by the prospect of an examination — There is to be a general one on the first of December, which will occupy the time of the students till the fifteenth — the time for beating up — It has not yet been determined whether there will be any diplomas or Doctors degrees given — but I should hardly think there will be any such thing, as this is only the second year of the institution & in other colleges three and four years are required in order to take a degree — that is, that time is supposed to be necessary — altho they sometimes confer them before — if the applicants are qualified — Tho it will hardly be fair to examine those who have only been here one session, with those who have been here two — and some of whom have come from other colleges — still I suppose I shall have to stand my examination with the rest — I have been studying a great deal & in order to be prepared, and dare say I shall come off as well as the rest of them, that is — if I don't get frightened — Perhaps you will see me some morning up here about that time, and then you can judge for yourself —

They have nearly finished the Rotunda - The pillars of the Portico are completed and greatly improve the appearance of the whole - The books are removed into the Library - and we have a very fine collection

The Tax agent - many sights upon lately - The faculty expelled Wickliffe last night for general bad conduct - and more especially for biting one of the students arms with whom he was fighting - I saw the whole affair - it took place before my door - Wickliffe was much the stronger but not content with that - after getting the other completely in his power, he began to bite - I saw the arm afterwards - and it was really a serious matter - It was bitten from the shoulder to the elbow - and it is likely that pieces of flesh as large as my hand will be obliged to be cut out - He is from Kentucky - He came over that was in suspension when I came up here some time ago - Give my love to Mat and Will, Rowe - Remember [illegible] your affectionate

Edward Eggleston

LETTER NUMBER THREE

EDGAR ALLAN POE, THE COURT HOUSE TAVERN, RICHMOND
MONDAY [DATED BY THE EDITOR] MARCH 19, 1827
TO JOHN ALLAN

LETTER NUMBER FOUR

EDGAR ALLAN POE, THE COURT HOUSE TAVERN, RICHMOND
TUESDAY [DATED BY THE EDITOR] MARCH 20, 1827
TO JOHN ALLAN

LETTER NUMBER FIVE

JOHN ALLAN, RICHMOND [DATED BY THE EDITOR] MARCH 20, 1827
TO EDGAR ALLAN POE

COMMENT

Letter Number Three explodes the tradition found in all of the Poe biographies that after his return from the University he was put to work in the office of Ellis and Allan. "You are continually upbraiding me" (he writes to Mr. Allan) "with eating the bread of idleness, when you yourself were the only person to remedy the evil by placing me in some business."

Three years later, in Letter Twenty-Four, he wrote: "I waited in vain in expectation that you would at least obtain me some employment."

Letter Three also proves that the main cause of the quarrel was Edgar's disappointment at being denied permission to return to the University and that the tempest of passion rose so high between the man and the boy that during it John Allan ordered his adopted son to "quit" his house.

Mr. Allan's reply to Letter Three (of Monday) was evidently written before he received that of Tuesday. There is no indication in it that he granted Poe's request for money. A sum sufficient to meet the boy's immediate needs may have been given or lent him by friends or the tradition followed by various biographers that he was supplied by Mrs. Allan and "Miss Nancy" Valentine may be true. On the back of Letter Four, closing: "I have not one cent in the world to provide any food," appear, in John Allan's handwriting, the words: "Pretty Letter."

As to just how soon after Edgar's return from the University the breach between him and his foster father took place his biographers were hazy until Professor Killis Campbell, by combination of two letters in the Library of Congress—one from Edward G. Crump, March 25, 1827, to Poe, and one from John Allan to a sister in Scotland, March 27, 1827—placed the date somewhere between the 20th and 25th of March. This was getting quite "warm." In Crump's letter he tells Poe: "I saw you a few days ago in Richmond." Mr. Allan writes: "I'm thinking Edgar

has gone to sea to seek his fortune." Combination of these two letters from the Library of Congress collection with Number Three and Number Four in the Valentine Museum fixes the exact day of the quarrel and of Poe's leaving home. March 27, 1827, when Mr. Allan wrote: "I'm thinking Edgar has gone to sea" fell on a Tuesday. Poe's letter of "Tuesday"—no date—saying, "I sail on Saturday" was evidently the Tuesday preceding (March 20), for Crump had written on the 25th, "I saw you a few days ago in Richmond" and Poe's letter of "Monday"—the day before the "Tuesday" letter—must have been written on March 19. It alludes to the quarrel of "yesterday"—which was, of course, Sunday, March 18, 1827. Poe sailed the Saturday following the quarrel—March 24—the day before Crump's letter [Sunday] March 25, was written. Poe never received it, hence it is still in the Ellis-Allan papers. Here it is, from a photostat copy of the original in the Library of Congress:

"Dinwiddie County March 25, 1827.

"Dear Sir:—

When I saw you in Richmond a few days ago I should have mentioned the difference between us if there had not been so many persons present. I must of course, as you did not mention it to me, enquire of you if you ever intend to pay it. If you have not the money write me word that you have not, but do not be perfectly silent. I should be glad if you would write to me even as a friend, there can certainly be no harm in your avowing candidly that you have no money, if you have none, but you can say when you can pay me if you cannot now. I heard when I was in Richmond that Mr. Allan would probably discharge all your debts. If mine was a gambling debt I should not think much of it. But under the present circumstances I think very strangely of it. Write to me upon the receipt of this letter and tell me candidly what is the matter.

Your friend
Edward G. Crump."

On the back of this letter is written in Mr. Allan's handwriting: "Edw'd. G. Crump, Mar. 25, 1827
to E. A. Poe, alias Henri Le Rennet."

Having determined the date of Edgar's sailing the next task for the editor was to find the ship. The *Boston Commercial Gazette* from March 26, to April 7 (kindly examined by Mr. G. A. Taylor of Boston) shows that the only vessel directly from Richmond which reached Boston during this period was *The Carrier*, Captain Gill. After its passage down the winding James with perhaps stops at wharves of some of the historic homes along that river, perhaps turning into Hampton Roads and passing Old Point and Fortress Monroe, perhaps putting in at Norfolk harbour for shelter from a March gale or to take on freight—then out to sea and on up the coast, *The Carrier* cast anchor in Boston's beautiful port on April 7 and Edgar Poe, after a twelve days' voyage, saw, for the first time within his memory, the city of his birth.

LETTER NUMBER THREE

Richmond Monday

Sir,

After my treatment on yesterday and what passed between us this morning, I can hardly think you will be surprised at the contents of this letter—My determination is at length taken to leave your house and endeavour to find some place in this wide world, where I will be treated —not as *you* have treated me—This is not a hurried determination, but one on which I have long considered— and having so considered my resolution is unalterable— You may perhaps think that I have flown off in a passion, & that I am already wishing to return; But not so—I will give you the reasons which have actuated me, and then judge—

Since I have been able to think on any subject, my thoughts have aspired, and they have been taught by *you* to aspire, to eminence in public life—this cannot be attained without a good Education, such a one I cannot obtain at a Primary school—

A collegiate Education therefore was what I most ardently desired, and I had been led to expect that it would at some future time be granted—but in a moment of caprice you have blasted my hope—because forsooth I disagreed

with you in an opinion, which opinion I was forced to express—

Again, I have heard you say (when you little thought I was listening and therefore must have said it in earnest) that you had no affection for me—

You have moreover ordered me to quit your house, and are continually upbraiding me with eating the bread of idleness, when you yourself were the only person to remedy the evil by placing me to some business —

You take delight in exposing me before those whom you think likely to advance my interest in this world—

You suffer me to be subjected to the whims & caprice, not only of your white family, but the complete authority of the blacks—these grievances I could not submit to; and I am gone—

I request that you will send me my trunk containing my clothes & books—and if you still have the least affection for me, As the last call I shall make on your bounty, To prevent the fulfilment of the Prediction you this morning expressed, send me as much money as will defray ~~my~~ the expences of my passage to some of the Northern cities & then support me for one month, by which time I shall be enabled to place myself in some situation where I may not only obtain a livelihood, but lay by a sum which one day or another will support me at the University—Send my trunk &c to the Court-House Tavern, send me I entreat

DOORWAY OF POE'S ROOM AT THE UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA

The Latin inscription is "Domus parva magni poetæ." The room is kept as a memorial of the great poet whose small home it was

you some money immediately, as I am in the greatest necessity — If you fail to comply with my request — I tremble for the consequence

Yours &c
Edgar A Poe

It depends upon yourself if hereafter you see or hear from me

Edgar A Poe

John Allan Esq[r]
Present

Richmond Monday

Sir,

After my treatment On Yesterday and what passed between us this morning, I can hardly think you will be surprised at the contents of this letter. My determination is at length taken to leave your house and endeavor to find some place in this wide world, where I will be treated - not as you have treated me —
This is not a hurried determination, but one on which I have long considered - and having so considered my resolution is unalterable -
You may perhaps think that I have flown off in a passion, & that I am already wishing to return; But not so - I will give you the reasons which have actuated me, and then judge —

Since I have been able to think on any subject, my thoughts have aspired, and they have been taught by you to aspire, to eminence in public life. this cannot be attained without a good Education, such a one I cannot obtain at a Primary school —

A collegiate Education therefore was what I most ardently desired, and I had been led to expect that it would at some future time be granted — but in a moment of caprice you have blasted my hope because forsooth I disagreed with you in an opinion, which opinion I was forced to express —

Again, I have heard you say (when you little thought I was listening and therefore must have said it in earnest) that You had no affection for me —

You have moreover ordered me to quit your house, and are continually upbraiding me with Eating the bread of Idleness, when you yourself were the only person to remedy the evil by placing me to some business —

You take delight in exposing me before those whom you think likely to advance my interest in this world —

You suffer me to be subjected to the whims & caprice, not only of your white family, but the

complete authority of the blacks — these griev-
ances I could not submit to; and I am gone
I request that you will send me my trunks
containing my clothes & books — and if
you still have the least affection for me,
At the last call I shall make on your bounty,
To prevent the fulfillment of the Prediction
you this morning expressed, send me as much
money as will defray the expenses of
my passage to some of the Northern cities
& then support me for one Month, by which
time I shall be enabled to place myself in
some situation where I may not only obtain
a livelihood, but lay by a sum which one
day or another will support me at the
University — Send my trunk &c to the
Court-house Tavern, send me I entreat
you some money immediately - as I am
in the greatest necessity — If you fail to
comply with my request — I tremble for
the consequence Yours &c Edgar A Poe

It depends upon yourself if hereafter you see or hear from me

LETTER NUMBER FOUR

Richmond Tuesday

Dear Sir,

Be so good as to send me my trunk with my clothes —I wrote you on yesterday explaining my reasons for leaving—I suppose by my not receiving either my trunk, or an answer to my letter, that you did not receive it— I am in the greatest necessity not having tasted food since yesterday morning I have no where to sleep at night, but roam about the streets—I am nearly exhausted—I beseech you as you wish not your prediction concerning me to be fulfilled—to send me without delay my trunk containing my clothes, and to lend if you will not give me as much money as will defray the expence of my passage to Boston ($12) and a little to support me there untill I shall be enabled to engage in some business. I sail on Saturday—A letter will be received by me at the Court House Tavern, where be so good as to send my trunk

Give my love to all
at home

I am yours &c
Edgar A Poe

I have not one cent in the world
to provide any food

Edgar A Poe
Pretty Letter

John Allan Esq[r]
Present

care of Ellis & Allan

Richmond Tuesday

Dear Sir,

Be so good as to send me my trunk with my clothes – I wrote to you on Yesterday explaining my reasons for leaving – I suppose by my not receiving either my trunk, or an answer to my letter, that you did not receive it – I am in the greatest necessity, not having tasted food since Yesterday morning. I have no where to sleep at night, but roam about the streets – I am nearly exhausted – I beseech you as you wish not your prediction concerning me to be fulfilled – to send me without delay my trunk containing my clothes, and to lend if you will not give me as much money as will defray the expence of my passage to Boston (#12,) and a little to support me there until I shall be enabled to engage in some business. – I sail on Saturday – A letter will be received by me at the Court House Tavern, where be so good as to send my trunk.

Give my love to all I am Yours &c.
at home – Edgar A Poe

I have not one cent in the world to provide any food

LETTER NUMBER FIVE

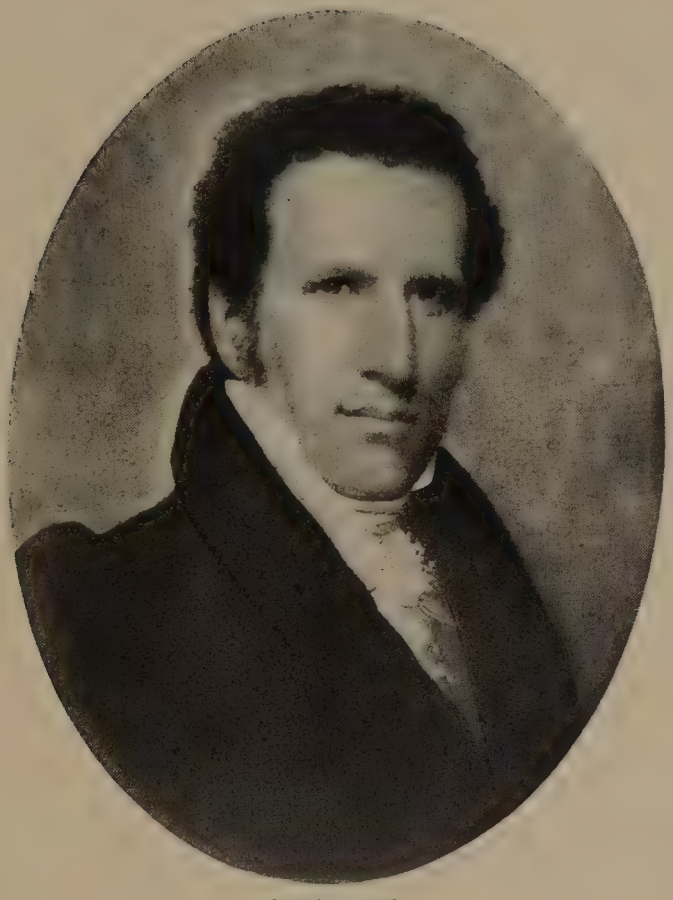
Sir,

Your letter of Monday was received this morning, I am not at all surprized at any step you may take, at any thing you can say, or any thing you may do, you are a much better judge of the propriety of your own conduct and general treatment of those who have had the charge of your infancy & have watched with parental solicitude & affection over your tender years affording you such means of instruction as was in their power & which was performed with pleasure until you became a much better judge of your own conduct, rights & priveledges than they, it is true I taught you to aspire, even to eminence in Public Life, but I never expected that Don Quixotte, Gil Blas, Jo: Miller & such works were calculated to promote the end.

It is true and you will not deny it, that the charge of eating the Bread of idleness, was to urge you to perseverance & industry in receiving the classics, in perfecting yourself in the mathematics, mastering the French &c. &c. how far I succeeded in this you can best tell, but for one who had conceived so good an opinion of himself & his future intentions I hesitate not to say, that you have not evinced the smallest disposition to comply with my wishes, it is only on this subject I wish to be understood,

your Heart will tell you if it is not made of Marble whether I have not had good reason to fear for you, in more ways than one. I should have been justly chargeable, in reprimanding you for faults had I had any other object than to correct them.

Your list of grievances require no answer the world will reply to them—& now that you have shaken off your dependance & declared for your own Independance —& after such a list of Black charges—you Tremble for for the consequences unless I send you a supply of money.



JOHN ALLAN
FOSTER-FATHER OF EDGAR ALLAN POE
From a portrait in the Allan House at Main and Fifth Streets

After

your letter of the 10th May was received this morning, I am not at all surprised at any step you may take, at any thing you can say, or any thing you may do, you are a much better judge of the propriety of your own conduct and general treatment of those who have had the charge of your infancy I have watched with parental solicitude & affection over your Tender years afforded you such means of instruction as was in their power & which was performed with pleasure until you became a much better judge of your own conduct, rights & privileges, than they, it is true I taught you to aspire, even to eminence in Public Life, but I never expected that Don Quixotte, Gil Blas, Jo: Miller & such works were calculated to promote the end

This true and you will not deny it, that the charge of creating the Beau & idleness, was to urge you to perseverance & industry in acquiring the classics, in perfecting yourself in the Mathematics, mastering the French & &c how far I succeeded in this you can best tell, but for one who had conceived so good an opinion of himself, this future intention I hesitate not to say, that you have not evinced the smallest disposition to comply with my wishes, it is only on this subject

I wish to be understood. your Heart will Tell
you if it is not made of Marble whether I have
not had good reason to fear for you, in more
ways than One. Should have been justly
chargeable, in reprimanding you for faults, had
I had any other Object than to correct them

your list of grievances requires no answer
the Worst you can reply to them - I know that you
have shaken off your dependance & disdained
for your own Independance - After such a
list of Black charges - you Tremble for the
Consequences unless I Send you a supply of
Money

LETTER NUMBER SIX

EDGAR ALLAN POE, FORT MOULTRIE, SULLIVAN'S ISLAND,
CHARLESTON, S. C., DECEMBER 1, 1828
TO JOHN ALLAN

COMMENT

The next known facts in the history of the eighteen-year-old Poe are his enlistment, at Boston, May 26, 1827, as a private soldier in the United States Army, and his assignment to Battery H of the First Artillery then at Fort Independence, Boston Harbour, which was ordered to Fort Moultrie, South Carolina on October 31, and was, on December 1, 1828 (according to Poe's letter following) "under orders to sail" from Fort Moultrie to Fortress Monroe, Old Point Comfort, Virginia.

A short time either before or after Poe's enlistment he had arranged with a young printer—who was, like himself, eighteen years old, and poor—to publish, at his shop Number 70, Washington Street, his first book: "Tamerlane and other Poems. By a Bostonian. Boston. Calvin S. Thomas. . . Printer. 1827, pp. 40."

Professor George E. Woodberry's scholarly "Life of Edgar Allan Poe" shows that, shabbily printed and dressed as was this forty page sheaf of verse, published anonymously and printed by a novice, its receipt was advertised by the *United States Review* and *Literary Gazette* of August, and the *North American Review* of October, 1827, and that as late as 1829 it was sufficiently alive for Samuel Kittell to mention it in his "Specimens of American Poetry." "Tamerlane" is one of the rare books of the world today and though it earned Poe no money, a copy has in recent years brought upwards of $11,000. at auction.

It is not likely that Poe, in enlisting in the army, was choosing soldiering as a career. According to the letter of Col. James House of the 1st Artillery, to the Commanding General, March 30, 1829, he had in the time since he left Richmond been "reduced to the necessity of enlisting into the service." This phrase which seems to have escaped the eye of the biographers is important, as the only hint of Poe's circumstances during the time he spent in Boston. It shows just how long after his landing there, it took him to arrive at the starving point—one month and nineteen days.

The fact that though there is proof aplenty that Edgar made a good soldier, he did not abandon the habit which, naturally enough, seemed idle and useless to a man immersed in business as was Mr. Allan, is made clear by the fruits of his star-gazing, as he paced the ramparts of Fort Moultrie on sentinel duty—his poem "Al Aaraaf" and his famous Sullivan's Island story, "The Gold Bug." "The Balloon Hoax" is also reminiscent of his year in the neighborhood of Charleston.

The opening sentence of Poe's letter from Fort Moultrie proves that (contrary to tradition) his whereabouts had been *unknown* to the Allans, but that he had lately approached Mr. Allan through a third party—Lieutenant Howard, of his regiment—who had promised him discharge from the army provided he could affect a reconciliation with his guardian and furnish a substitute. It also shows that Lieutenant Howard had written a note in his behalf from Fort Moultrie to Mr. Allan, sent to Richmond to be delivered in person by a "Mr. Lay," and that Mr. Allan had replied direct to the bearer saying that Edgar "had better remain as he is until the termination of his enlistment"—five years from the beginning. This was not in accord with Poe's wishes, whose thoughts, now that his regiment was ordered to Virginia, turned longingly toward Richmond and the love, friendship and comfort it had held for him.

Buoyed up by the good reputation given him by the officers of his regiment and by belief that his creative work would bring honour to his name and that of the Allans, he was filled with hope of making up old quarrels, being freed from army service and restored to his place in the affections and home of his foster-parents. The boy's confident prophecies of success in his chosen field as poet and man of letters would seem at once pathetic and absurd if time had not fulfilled them.

He saw in Mr. Allan's declaration that he had better remain in the army a suggestion that the writer believed that by enlisting as a private he was "degraded and disgraced and that anything were preferable to my returning home and entailing on yourself a portion of my infamy." But even this did not dampen his exhilaration.

LETTER NUMBER SIX

Fort Moultrie, Charleston Hr
December 1st 1828.

Dear Sir,

The letter of Lieut J. Howard left by Mr John O. Lay for your perusal will explain the cause of my writing from Fort Moultrie.

Your note addressed to Mr Lay, & inclosed by him to Lieut: Howard was handed over by the latter to myself. In that note what chiefly gave me concern was hearing of your indisposition—I can readily see & forgive the suggestion which prompted you to write "he had better remain as he is until the termination of his enlistment." It was perhaps under the impression that a *military* life was one after my own heart and that it might be possible (although contrary to the Regulations of our Army) to obtain a commission for one who had not received his education at West Point, & who, from his age, was excluded that Academy, but I could not help thinking that you believed me degraded & disgraced and that anything were preferable to my returning home & entailing on yourself a portion of my infamy: But at no period of my life, have I regarded myself with a deeper satisfaction, or did my heart swell with more honourable pride. The time may come (if at all it will come speedily) when much that appears of a doubtful

nature will be explained away, and I shall have no hesitation in appearing among my former connections—at the present I have no such intention, and nothing short of your absolute commands, should deter me from my purpose.

I have been in the American Army as long as suits my ends or my inclination, and it is now time that I should leave it—To this effect I made known my circumstances to Lieut. Howard who promised me my discharge solely upon a reconciliation with yourself—In vain I told him that your wishes for me (as your letter assured me) were, and had always been those of a father & that you were ready to forgive even the worst offences —He insisted upon my writing you & that if a reconciliation could be effected he would grant me my wish —This was advised in the goodness of his heart & with a view of serving me in a double sense—He has always been kind to me, and, in many respects, reminds me forcibly of yourself—

The period of an Enlistment is five years—the prime of my life would be wasted—I shall be driven to more decided measures, if you refuse to assist me.

You need not fear for my future prosperity—I am altered from what you knew me, & am no longer a boy tossing about on the world without aim or consistency— I feel that within me which will make me fulfil your highest wishes & only beg you to suspend your judgement until you hear *of* me again.

You will perceive that I speak confidently—but when did ever Ambition exist or Talent prosper without prior conviction of success? I have thrown myself on the world like the Norman conqueror on the shores of Britain &, by my avowed assurance of victory, have destroyed the fleet which could alone cover my retreat—I must either conquer or die—succeed or be disgraced.

A letter addressed to Lieut: J. Howard assuring him of your re-conciliation with myself (which you have never yet refused) & desiring my discharge would be all that is necessary—He is already acquainted with you from report & the high character given of you by Mr Lay.

Write me once more if you do really forgive me let me know how my Ma preserves her health, and the concerns of the family since my departure.

Pecuniary assistance I do not desire—unless of your own free & unbiassed choice—I can struggle with any difficulty. My dearest love to Ma—it is only when absent that we can tell the value of such a friend—I hope she will not let my wayward disposition wear away the love she used to have for me.

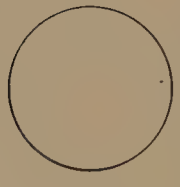
Yours respectfully & affectionately

Edgar A, Poe

(P.S) We are now under orders to sail for old Point Comfort, and will arrive there before your answer can be received—Your address then will be to Lieut : J. Howard, Fortress Monroe, the same for myself.

E. A. Poe
Dec^{r} 1 1828
Charleston

John Allan Esqr
Richmond
Virginia.



care of Wm & Wm Galt Jr

Courtesy of the Edgar Allan Poe Shrine

BOSTON IN 1828, FROM THE HARBOUR

The city of Poe's birth; the place where, at the age of 18, he published his first volume of poems; where he enlisted in the army and where his genius received its first real recognition—from the critic John Neal, in 1829

Fr.- Montbe, Straight Pole
December 1st

Dear Sir,

The letter of Lieut. Edward Ellsworth, dated at Fort Erie, will explain the cause of my writing from Fr.- Montbe..

Having advanced to Ft. Erie, encouraged by him as Lieut. Edward may remember by the letter to myself. In that note which gave me access to the hearing of your intentions I can readily see a reason the suggestion which permits you to write "he has letters remain open until the termination of his engagement." It may perhaps under the impression that a military life may weaken my mental and that it might be hazarded (although contrary to the Regulations of our Army) to obtain a commission for one who had not received his education at West Point, & who, from his age, may experience that Obedience by but could not help thinking that you believed me regarded & old grade and that any thing more practicable to pursue during the continuance of my military. But at the period of my life, have Regarded myself with undeserved partiality, & during my heart-sickness with more honourable pride.- The time may come (if at all it will come speedily) when much that appears of a Non-Elite nature will be explained away, and I shall have no hesitation in appearing among my former

Connexion — at the present I have no such intention, and nothing short of your absolute command, should detach me from my purpose.

I have been in the American army long enough, my age & my inclination, and it is now time that I should leave it. — The effect of mere reason & conviction is what I would depend upon in a re-establishment with yourself — Can I do him that you write for me (by your letter against me) were, and has always been the ardor of a mind you were ready to forgive even the most flagrant offence. — If they in Pursuing, you & that if a re-establishment could be effected he would grant me my wish. — They are advised in the goodness of his heart & with a view of serving me in a double sense — They always been kind to me, and, in many respects, serve me heartily of yourself.

The season of Campaign is far-e spent — the time of my life would be wasted — I shall be driven to more decided measures if you refuse to assist me.

You need not fear for my future happiness — I am abstain from what you knew me; I am no longer a boy — I enjoy about on the world as I have — my years; — I feel that do him me which will make me what you wish & only beg you to suspend your judgment until you hear of me again.

You will perceive that I speak confidently — but I mean no

[illegible] Lieut. [illegible] Navy, [illegible] Lieut. [illegible] succeeds? I have written myself on the subject, but I know [illegible] on the Station, by my answer assuring me of safety, have requested the first vacancy [illegible] succeed [illegible] be appointed.

Of letters received I have [illegible] Edward Lewis from whom I have not heard with myself (which you have never yet refused) & requiring my discharge, [illegible] as all that is necessary. He is already acquainted with you from report & the high character given of [illegible] Navy.

[illegible] Give me [illegible] Love to Lady [illegible] Write me [illegible] & let me know how my [illegible] Health, and the concerns of the family [illegible] my departure. Economy & frugality I do not require - only [illegible] you see a proper object - & avoid [illegible] with any difficulty. My dearest love to Ma - if I only [illegible] agent that we can sell the value of such a friend. I hope she will not [illegible] my departure as [illegible] has love she owes to have for me.

Ever affectionately & faithfully [illegible]

Edwd. C. Perry

P.S. We are now under orders to sail for St. Christophers and will arrive there before your answer can be received - Your address then will be to Lieut. Edward Perry H.M.S. [illegible] Same for my life.

LETTER NUMBER SEVEN

EDGAR ALLAN POE, FORTRESS MONROE, OLD POINT, VIRGINIA,
DECEMBER 22, 1828
TO JOHN ALLAN

COMMENT

In this letter signed "Your affectionate son," Poe "much hurt" at receiving no answer to his Fort Moultrie letter writes again to "recapitulate its contents," presses more ardently than before his plea for reconciliation and consent of his guardian "to be freed from the army." The letter received no reply. Soon after it was written Poe was made sergeant major—a promotion which was always a reward of merit.

The sensitive boy's uneasiness lest his "father" should consider him "degraded" was evidently on account of his enlistment and service as a private in the army. He had done nothing else to warrant such anxiety.

LETTER NUMBER SEVEN

Fortress Monroe (Va)
December 22d 1828

Dear Sir;

I wrote you shortly before leaving Fort Moultrie & am much hurt at receiving no answer—Perhaps my letter has not reached you & under that supposition I will recapitulate its contents—It was chiefly to sollicit your interest in freeing me from the Army of the U.S. in which (as Mr Lay's letter from Lieut Howard informed you) I am at present a soldier. I begged that you would suspend any judgement you might be inclined to form, upon many untoward circumstances, until you heard *of* me again—& begged you to give my dearest love to Ma & solicit her not to let my wayward disposition wear away the affection she used to have for me. I mentioned that all that was necessary to obtain my discharge from the army was your consent in a letter to Lieut. J. Howard, who has heard of you by report, & the high character given you by Mr Lay; this being all that I asked at your hands, I was hurt at your declining to answer my letter—Since arriving at Fort Moultrie Lieut Howard has given me an introduction to Col: James House of the 1st Arty to whom I was before personally known only as a soldier of his regiment—He spoke kindly to me . told me that he was personally acquainted with my Grandfather Genl

Poe, with yourself & family, & reassured me of my immediate discharge upon your consent. It must have been a matter of regret to me, that when those who were strangers took such deep interest in my welfare, ~~that~~ you who called me your son should refuse me even the common civility of answering a letter. If it is your wish to forget that I have been your son I am too proud to remind you of it again—I only beg you to remember that you yourself cherished the cause of my leaving your family—Ambition—If it has not taken the channel you wished it, it is not the less certain of its object. Richmond & the U.States were too narrow a sphere & the world shall be my theatre.

As I observed in the letter which you have not received —(you would have answered it if you had) You believe me degraded—but do not believe it—There is that within my heart which has no connection with degradation—I can walk among infection & be uncontaminated. There never was any period of my life when my bosom swelled with a deeper satisfaction, of myself & (except in the injury which I may have done to your feelings)—of my conduct—My father do not throw me aside as *degraded* I will be an honor to your name.

Give my best love to my Ma & to all friends.

If you determine to abandon me—here take [illegible] farewell—Neglected I will be doubly [illegible] tious, & the world shall hear of the son whom you have thought

FORT MOULTRIE

From a drawing made by Lossing in 1849 for his *Field Book of the Revolution*. Here came the 18 year old Poe and spent thirteen months (November 1827–December 1828) marked by sobriety, faithfulness to duty and striking creative work

unworthy of your notice. But if you let the love you bear me, outweigh the offence which I have given—then write me my father, quickly. My desire is for the present to be freed from the Army—Since I have been in it my character is one that will bear scrutiny & has merited the esteem of my officers—but I have accomplished my own ends—& I wish to be gone—Write to Lieut Howard—& to Col: House, desiring my discharge —& above all to myself. Lieut Howard's direction is Lieut J. Howard, For ss Monroe, Col. House's Col: Jas House— F ss Monroe—my own the same—

My dearest Love to Ma & all my friends

I am your affectionate son

Edgar A Poe

12½

John Allan Esq^{r}

Richmond

Va

Edgar A Poe

Dec^{r} 22 1828

Hobby Mansion (Pa)
December 22d 1828

Dear Sir;

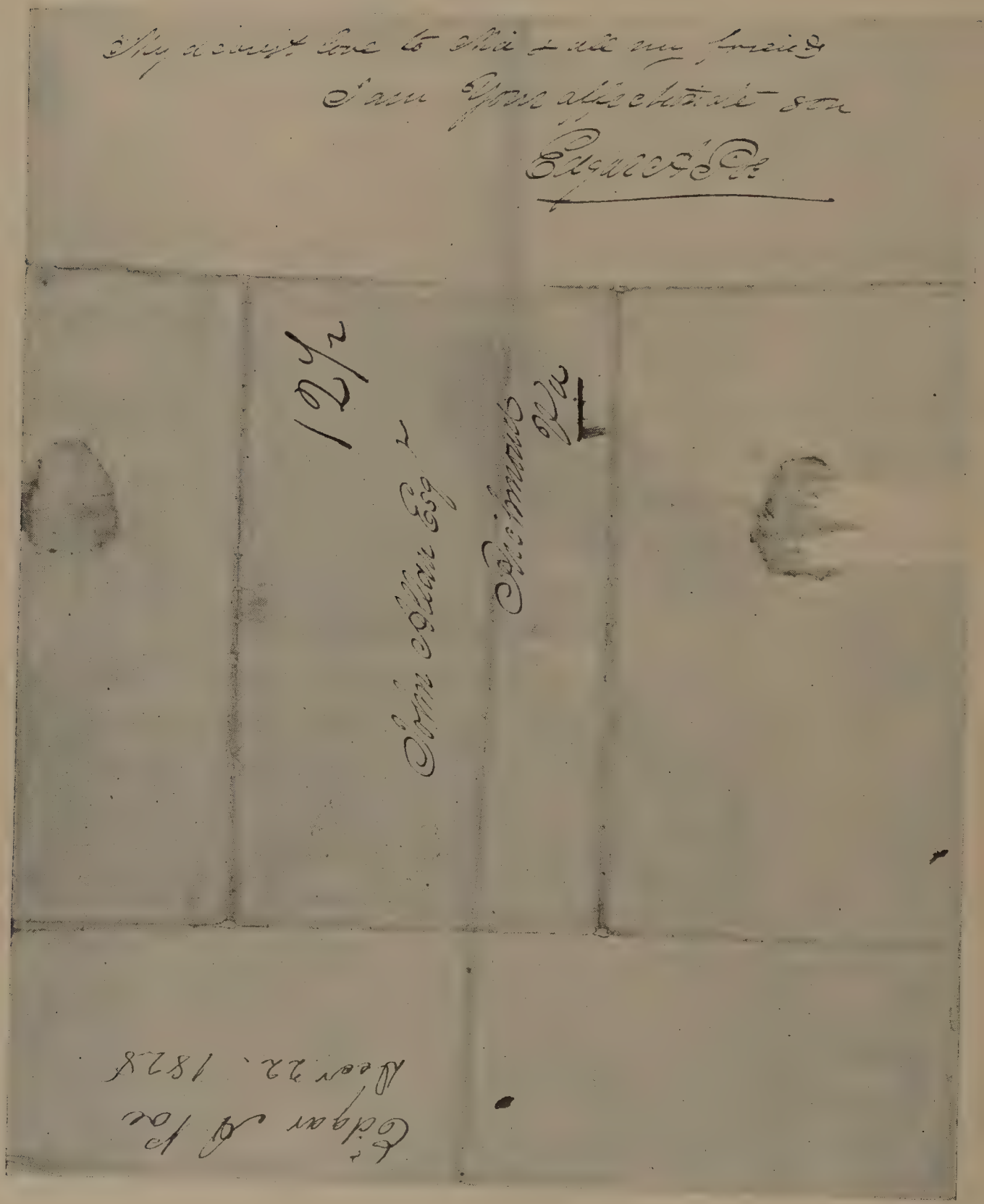
I wrote you shortly before leaving Fort Moultrie & am much hurt at receiving no answer. Perhaps my letter has not reached you & under that supposition I will recapitulate its contents. It was chiefly to solicit your interest in freeing me from the army of the U. S. in which (as Mr Lay's letter from Lieut Howard informed you) I am at present a soldier. I begged that you would suspend any judgement you might be inclined to form, upon meany untoward circumstance until you heard of me again. I begged you to give my dearest love to Alice & solicit her not to let my wayward disposition wear away the affection she used to have for me. I mentioned that all that was necessary to obtain my discharge from the army was your consent in a letter to Lieut Howard, who has heard of you by report, & the high character given you by Mr Lay; this being all that I asked at your hands, I was hurt at your declining to answer my letter. Since arriving at Fort Moultrie

Lieut Howard has given me an introduction to Col: James Bruce of the 1st Regt to whom I was before personally known only as a soldier of his regiment. He spoke kindly to me. told me that he was personally acquainted with my Grandfather Gen.l Poe, with yourself & family, & assured me of my immediate discharge upon your consent. It must have been a matter of regret to me, that when those who were strangers took such deep interest in my welfare, that you who called me your son should refuse me even the common civility of answering a letter. If it is your wish to forget that I have been your son I am too proud to remind you of it again. I only beg you to remember that You yourself cherished the cause of my leaving your family. Ambition. If it has not taken the channel you wished it, it is not the less certain of its object Richmond, the U. States were too narrow a sphere & the world shall be my theatre.

As I observed in the letter which you have not received. (You would have answered it if you had) You believe me degraded. but I do not believe it. There is that within my heart which has no connection with degradation. I can walk among

injection & be unconstitutional. There never was any period of my life when my bosom swelled with a deeper satisfaction of myself & (except in the injury which I may have done to your feelings) — of my conduct — My father do not throw me aside as degraded — I will be an honor to your name.

Give my best love to my Ma — to all friends — If you determine to abandon me — here take farewell — & Heaven — I will be dou[illegible] ity, & the world shall hear of the son whom you have thought — unworthy of your notice. But if you still love me hear me, notwithstanding the silence which I have given — then write me my father, quickly. My desire is for the present to be freed from the Army — since I have been in it my character & me that will bear scrutiny & has merited the esteem of my duty — but I have accomplished my own ends — & wish to be gone — Write to Lieut Howard — to Col. Howe, desiring my discharge — & above all to, my self. — Lieut Howard's direction is Lieut J. Howard, 7th Mass. Col. Howe's Col. Jay Howe — 7th Mass — run on the same —



LETTER NUMBER EIGHT

EDGAR ALLAN POE, FORTRESS MONROE, OLD POINT, VIRGINIA,
FEBRUARY 4, 1829
TO JOHN ALLAN

COMMENT

Two months and over have passed since Poe's Fort Moultrie letter was written and six weeks—including the Christmas season and Edgar's twentieth birthday—since the one from Fortress Monroe. Discouraged at having had no answer to either and with hope of being invited "home" gone, he writes again—this time requesting Mr. Allan to help him to procure a cadet's appointment to West Point. He says he is in "an uncomfortable situation for lack of money," confesses "infamous conduct" at the University and throws himself upon his father's mercy.

There is no evidence of a reply to this letter but three weeks after it was written (February 28, 1829) Mrs. Allan died. On that day Edgar was "present for duty" with his battery at Old Point, but the death of Frances Allan evidently caused her husband to relent and ask for a week's leave for the young sergeant major who had been her only child, and of course he must have furnished means for the journey. Again proof is furnished by a combination of the Valentine Museum letters and the records in the Library of Congress. In Letter Twenty-Four from West Point, Poe reminds Mr. Allan that he "came home the night after the burial"—presumably March 2, since the death occurred on the last day of February. The Ellis-Allan papers contain a bill dated March 3, 1829, for a handsome suit of mourning clothes for Edgar Poe, including a fashionable hat. "Miss Nancy" Valentine and Mrs. Galt, to whom Edgar sends messages, doubtless attended to that.

LETTER NUMBER EIGHT

Fortress Monroe
February 4th 1829

Dear Sir,

I wrote you some time ago from this place but have as yet received no reply. Since that time I wrote to John McKenzie desiring him to see you personally & desire for me, of you, that you would interest yourself in procuring me a cadet's appointment at the Military Academy.

To this likewise I have received no answer, for which I can in no manner account, as he wrote me before I wrote to him & seemed to take an interest in my welfare.

I made the request to obtain a cadet's appointment partly because I know that—(if my age should prove no obstacle as I have since ascertained it will not) the appointment could easily be obtained either by your personal acquaintance with Mr Wirt or by the recommendation of General Scott, or even of the officers residing at Fortress Monroe & partly because in making the request you would at once see to what direction my "future views & expectations" were inclined.

You can have no idea of the immense advantages which my present station in the army would give me in the appointment of a cadet—it would be an unprecedented case

in the American army, & having already passed thro the practical part even of the higher port ion of the Artillery arm, my cadet-ship would only be considered as a necessary form which I am positive I could run thro' in 6 months. This is the view of the case which many at this place have taken in regard to myself. If you are willing to assist me it can now be effectually done—if not (as late circumstances have induced me to believe) I must remain contented until chance or other friends shall render me that assistance.

Under the certain expectation of kind news from home I have been led into expences which my present income will not support. I hinted as much in my former letter, and am at present in an uncomfortable situation I have known the time when you would not have suffered me long to remain so.

Whatever fault you may find with me I have not been ungrateful for past services—but you blame me for the part which I have taken without considering the powerful impulses which actuated me. You will remember how much I had to suffer upon my return from the University. I never meant to offer a shadow of excuse for the infamous conduct of myself & others at that place. It was however at the commencement of that year that I got deeply entangled in difficulty which all my after good conduct in the close of the session (to

Courtesy of the Edgar Allan Poe Shrine

FORTRESS MONROE WHEN POE WAS IN SERVICE THERE—1829

which all there can testify) could not clear away. I had never been from home before for any length of time. I say again I have no excuse to offer for my conduct except the common one of youth [illegible] —but I repeat that I was unable if my life had depended upon it to bear the consequences of that conduct in the taunts & abuse that followed it even from those who had been my warmest friends.

I shall wait with impatience for an answer to this letter for upon it depend a great many of the circumstances of my future life—the assurance of an honourable & highly successful course in my own country—or the prospect—no *certainty* of an exile forever to another.

Give my love to Ma—

I am

Yours affectionately

Edgar A Poe

Edgar A Poe
Feby 4th 1829

12½

John Allan Esqr
Richmond
Va

Dear [illegible]

Fort Monroe
January 4th 1861

I write you one line as time will not allow me to write more. Since I saw you last I have received a letter from Mr. Lewis desiring him to see you personally & have it so, if you, that you would interest yourself in procuring me a cadet's appointment at the Military Academy. This I have declined to answer, as the subject is one in no manner connected with me, but I have written to him to see you & have the matter taken up in my behalf.

I made the request to Mr. Lewis confidentially partly because I know that if my application should prove successful (which is very uncertain) the appointment could easily be obtained either by your personal acquaintance with Mr. Weil or by the recommendation of Edward Scott, a cousin of the Weils residing at Forks of Pamunkey, & partly because in making the request you would advance me to what direction my future energies & expectations were inclined.

You can have no idea of the numerous

advantages which my present station in the army would give me in the appointment of a cadet— it would be an unprecedented case in the American army. & having already passed thro the practical part— even of the higher parts of the artillery arm, my cadet-ship would only be considered as a necessary form which I am positive I could run thro' in 6 months.

This is the view of the case which many at this place have taken in regard to myself. If you are willing to assist— put it can now be effectually done — if not / as late circumstances have induced me to believe / I must remain contented until chance or other friends shall render me that assistance.

Under the certain expectation of kind news from home I have been led into expences which my present income will not support. I hinted as much in my former letter. and am at present in an uncomfortable situation I have known the time when you would not have suffered me long to remain in

Whatever fault you may find with me I have not been ungrateful for past services but you blame me for the part which I have taken without considering the powerful impulses which actuated me - You will remember how much I had to suffer upon my return from the University. I never meant to offer a shadow of excuse for the infamous conduct of myself & theirs at that place. It was however at the commencement of that year that I got deeply entangled in difficulty which all my after good conduct in the close of the session (to which all there can testify) could not clear away. I had never been from home before for any length of time. I say again I have no excuse to offer for my conduct except the common one of youth- y - but I repeat that I was unable my life had depended upon it to bear the consequences of that conduct in the taunts & abuse that followed it even from those who had been my warmest friends.

I shall wait with impatience for an

answer to this letter for upon it depend a great many of the circumstances of my future life - the assurance of an honourable & highly successful course in my own country or the prospect - not certainty of an exile forever to another.

Give my love to Ma -

Ever Your affectionate
Edgar A. Poe.

Edgar A. Poe
Feby 4th 1839

Phila

Wm E. Burton Esq.
Chestnut above 9th

LETTER NUMBER NINE

EDGAR ALLAN POE, FORTRESS MONROE, MARCH 10, 1829
TO JOHN ALLAN
[MUTILATED]

COMMENT

This brief letter written immediately upon Poe's return to Old Point after his week's visit to the desolated Allan home, shows that in the softened atmosphere of mutual sorrow a reconciliation had taken place between father and son, that Mr. Allan had agreed to Edgar's applying for discharge from the army and plans were afoot to secure him a cadet's appointment.

In the course of Professor George E. Woodberry's exhaustive research for his Life of Edgar Allan Poe,[1] he unearthed and introduced into his book some valuable material concerning Poe's discharge from the army and application for appointment to West Point. In a letter (Fortress Monroe, March 30, 1829) from Colonel James House of the First Artillery,[2] "To the General Commanding the E. Dept. U. S. A., New York," the writer says that at the request of Poe's "patron. . . the young man has been permitted to visit him; the result is an entire reconciliation on the part of Mr. Allan, who reinstates him in his family and favor, and who . . . requests that his son may be discharged on procuring a substitute."

By order dated April 4, Poe received his discharge on April 15, and a satisfactory substitute took his place. Before going "home" to Richmond he lingered about Old Point long enough to secure letters of recommendation to be presented in person to Major John H. Eaton, the Secretary of War, at Washington. Thanks to Professor Woodberry, we may read these letters, also, in full.[3] That of Lieutenant Howard declared that "Edgar Poe . . . served under my command . . . from June 1827, to January, 1829, during which time his conduct was unexceptionable. He at once performed the duties of Company Clerk and assistant in the Subsistent Department, both of which duties were promptly

[1] Boston, 2 volumes, 1909.
[2] Quoted in full by Woodberry, Vol. I, pp. 48, 49.
[3] Woodberry, Vol. I, pp. 49, 50, 51, 52.

and faithfully done. His habits are good and intirely free from drinking."

Captain H. W. Griswold, Adjutant of the regiment, in a postscript to Lieutenant Howard's letter, added that "Edgar Poe was appointed Sergeant Major of the 1st Artillery January 1, 1829, and up to this date has been exemplary in his deportment, prompt and faithful in the discharge of his duties—and is highly worthy of confidence."

Lieut. Col. W. J. Worth, Commandant of Fortress Monroe wrote (in part): "I have known and had an opportunity of observing the conduct of the above mentioned Sergt.—Maj'r. Poe some three months, during which his deportment has been highly praiseworthy and deserving confidence." It will be seen from Mr. Allan's letter of May 6, that Hon. Andrew Stevenson, Speaker of the House and Major John Campbell each added a letter of recommendation, as did Col. James P. Preston, at one time Governor of Virginia. Mr. Allan himself wrote as follows:

"Richmond, May 6, 1829.

"Dear Sir:—

"The youth who presents this is the same alluded to by Lt. Howard, Capt. Griswold, Colo. Worth, our representative and the Speaker, the Hon'ble Andrew Stevenson, and my friend Major Jno. Campbell.

"He left me in consequence of some gambling at the University at Charlottesville, because (I presume) I refused to sanction a rule that the shopkeepers and others had adopted there making Debts of Honour of all indiscretions. I have much pleasure in asserting that he stood his examination at the close of the year with great credit to himself. His history is short. He is the grandson of Quartermaster-General Poe, of Maryland, whose widow as I understand still receives a pension for the services or disabilities of her husband. Frankly, Sir, do I declare that he is no relation to me whatever; that I have many [in] whom I have taken an active interest to promote theirs; with no other feeling than

that every man is my care, if he be in distress. For myself I ask nothing, but I do request your kindness to aid this youth in the promotion of his future prospects. And it will afford me great pleasure to reciprocate any kindness you can show him. Pardon my frankness; but I address a soldier.

Your ob'd't se'v't,
John Allan

The Hon'ble John H. Eaton,
Sec'y of War, Washington City."

As the letters of Lieutenant Howard and others were dated April 20, and that of Mr. Allan May 6, his visit "home" must have lasted about two weeks.

LETTER NUMBER NINE

Fortress Monroe
March 10th 1829.

My dear Pa,

I arrived on the point this morning in good health, and if it were not for the late occurrences, should feel much happier than I have for a long time. I have had a fearful warning & have hardly ever known before what distress was.

The Colonel has left the point this morning Washington to congratulate the President so I have not yet seen him. He will return on Thursday week ^ next. In the meantime am employing myself in preparing for the which will engage my attention at W. Point should be so fortunate as to obtain an appoint am anxious to retr my good name wit nds & especially your good opinion think a letter of recommendation from Jud s Major Gibbon & Col: Preston forwarded to a letter to Mr Patterson requesting would prev I may be tonian.

[Sheet partly burnt]

me in the morning of my departure I went to your room to tell you goodbye—but, as you were asleep, I would not disturb you.

My respects to Mr & Mrs Galt & Mr Wm Galt.

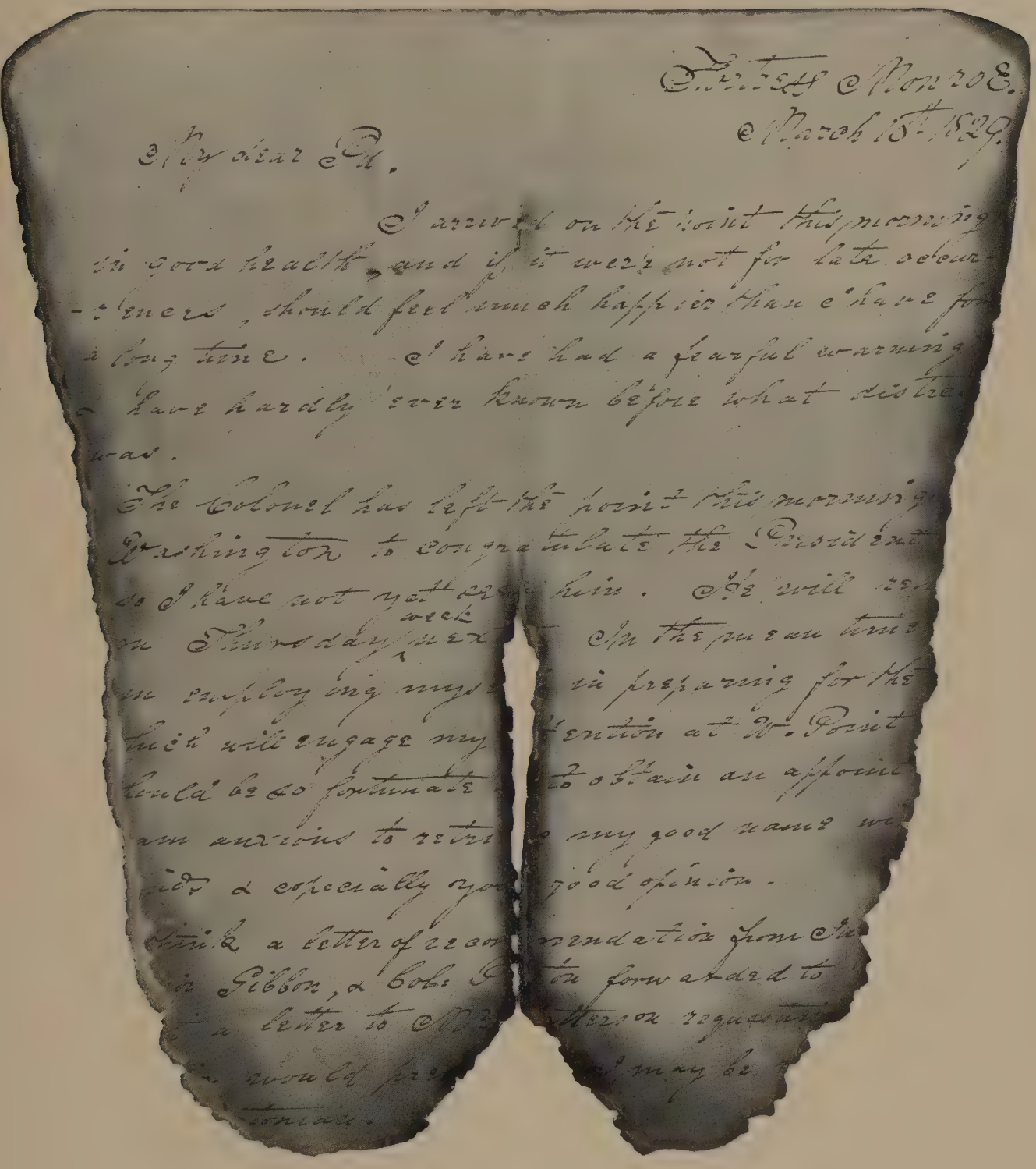
I am, dear Pa,
Yours affectionately
Edgar A. Poe

Edgar A Poe
Mar 10th 1829

To
John Allan Esq.,
Richmond
Va

FRANCES VALENTINE ALLAN

Wife of John Allan. From a portrait by Thomas Sully, owned by Edward V. Valentine



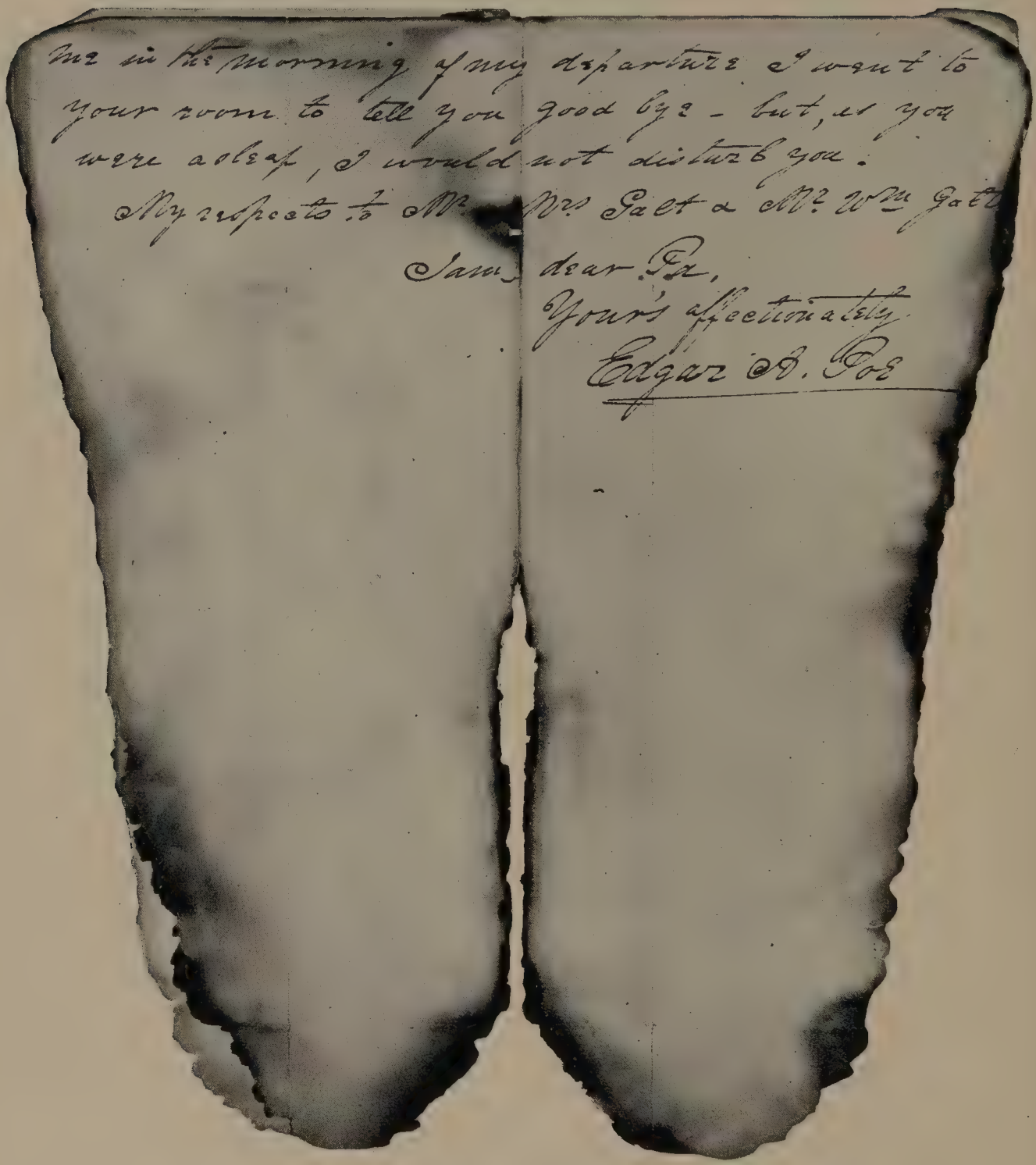
Detroit March 20.
March 15th 1829.

My dear Sir,

I arrived on the spot this morning in good health, and if it were not for late adventures, should feel much happier than I have for a long time. I have had a fearful warning I have hardly ever known before what destitution was.

The Colonel has left this morning Washington to congratulate the President & I have not yet seen him. He will return on Thursday next. In the mean time I am employing myself preparing for the duties which will engage my attention at St. Peters & I trust I shall be so fortunate to obtain an appointment am anxious to retain my good name with & especially your good opinion.

I think a letter of recommendation from Mr Gibbon, a Col. [illegible] to forwarded to a letter to Mr [illegible] Mason requesting would [illegible] I may be [illegible] conceit.



me in the morning, of my departure. I went to your room to tell you good bye - but, as you were asleep, I would not disturb you.

My respects to Mr. Mrs. Gait & Mr. Wm. Gait

Sam, dear Fr,

Yours affectionately

Edgar A. Poe

LETTER NUMBER TEN

JOHN ALLAN, RICHMOND, MAY 18, 1829
TO EDGAR ALLAN POE

LETTER NUMBER ELEVEN

EDGAR ALLAN POE, BALTIMORE, MAY 20, 1829
TO JOHN ALLAN

COMMENT

From these letters it will be seen that Poe had presented his application and credentials at Washington and was looking up his father's kin in Baltimore. His references to William Wirt (who had formerly lived in Richmond and moved in the circle with which the Allans were identified) shows that he was not unmindful of his literary aspirations and was making good his opportunity to improve his acquaintance with a well known man of letters.

The "warm" letter written to Mr. Allan by Colonel James P. Preston was dated May 13, 1829—about a week after Poe left Richmond.

On the reverse of Poe's letter Mr. Allan wrote: Edgar A. Poe May 20, 1829. Answered in anticipation to Washington.

Gave Edgar.....	$50
remitted him.....	100
p'd his draft.....	50
	$200.

LETTER NUMBER TEN

Richmond May 18th 1829

Dear Edgar

I duly recd your letter from Baltimore on Saturday but seeing Col. Preston I gave it to him to read, I have not yet recovered possession. The contents however are on my mind. I was agreeably pleased to hear that the Honourable Jno J Barber did interest himself so much in your favour.

He perhaps remembered you when you were at the Springs in 1812, from the interest exhibited by the Secretary of War you stand a fair chance I think of being one of those selected for Sept. Col. Preston wrote a warm letter in your favour to Major Eaton since your departure. Major Campbell left this for Washington on yesterday. While you are in Maryland assertain & get Certificate of the fact whether your Grandfather was in the Service during the revoly war, where he served, Rank, &c &c. it may be of service & cannot do you any harm. I cover a Bank check of Virga on the Union Bank of Maryland (this date) of Baltimore for one Hundred Dollars payable to your order be prudent and careful

Yrs
John Allan
P L D

Copy of a
Letter to Edgar Poe
May 18th 1829

Richmond May 18th 1829

Dear Edgar

I duly recd. your letter from Baltimore on Saturday but seeing Col: Preston I gave it to him to read. I have not yet recovered possession The contents however are on my mind. I was agreeably pleased to hear that the Honorable Jno. I Barber did interest himself so much in your favour He perhaps remembered you when you were at the Springs in 1812. from the interest exhibited by the Secretary of War you stand a fair chance I think of being one of those selected for Sept. Col: Preston wrote a warm letter in your favour to Major Eaton since your departure. Major Campbell left this for Washington on yesterday. While you are in Maryland, ascertain & get Certificate of the fact whether your Grandfather was in the Service during the revol: war. where he served. Rank &c &c. it may be of service & cannot do you any harm. I cover a Bank check of Virg: on the union Bank of Maryland (this date) of Baltimore for one Hundred Dollars payable to your order Be prudent and careful

Yrs

John Allan

D L D

LETTER NUMBER ELEVEN

Baltimore
May 20. 1829

Dear Pa,

I received your letter this morning enclosing a draft for $100 for which liberal allowance you will be sure that I feel grateful. The draft which I drew at Mr. Warwick's suggestion will of course be laid aside.

I have succeeded in finding Grandmother & my relations —but the fact of my Grandfather's having been Quarter Master General of the whole U. S. Army during the Revolutionary war is clearly established but its being a well known fact at Washington, obviates the necessity of obtaining the certificate you mentioned.

Presuming upon Mr. Wirt's former acquaintance, I introduced myself personally & for a first attempt at self introduction succeeded wonderfully. He treated me with great politeness, and invited me to call & see him frequently while I stay in Baltimore—I have called upon him several times.

I have been introduced to many gentlemen of high standing in the city, who were formerly acquainted with my grandfather, & have altogether been treated very handsomely.

Give my best love to Miss Valentine & all at home—

I remain

Yours affectionately

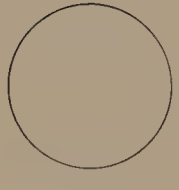
Edgar A. Poe

Edgar A Poe
May 20 1829

Answered in anticipation
to Washington

gave Edgar	$ 50
remitted him	100
p[d] his draft	50
	$200

John Allan Esq[r]
Richmond
Va



Baltimore
May 20. 1829.

Dear Pa,

I received your letter this morning enclosing a draft for $100 for which liberal allowance you will be sure that I feel grateful.

The draft which I drew at Mr. Warwick's suggestion will of course be laid aside.

I have succeeded in finding Grandmother's any relations - but the fact of my Grandfather's having been Quater Master General of the whole U. S. Army during the Revolutionary war is clearly established. but its being a well known fact at Washington, obviates the necessity of obtaining the certificates you mentioned.

Presuming upon Mr. Wirt's former acquaintance, I introduced myself personally & for a first attempt at self introduction succeeded wonderfully. He treated me with great politeness, and

invited me to call & see him frequently
while I stay in Baltimore. I have
called upon him several times.
I have been introduced to many gentle-
men of high standing in the city. who were
formerly acquainted with my grandfather.
I have altogether been treated very hand-
somely.

Give my best love to Mrs Valentine
& all at home.

I remain Yours affectionately

Edgar A. Poe

LETTER NUMBER TWELVE

EDGAR ALLAN POE, BALTIMORE, MAY 29, 1829
TO JOHN ALLAN

COMMENT

It becomes more and more evident that the master interest of Poe's life was his creative work and desire to see it in print. While waiting in Baltimore to hear from his application for a cadetship he sought the opinion and advice of William Wirt as to "Al Aaraaf" and (apparently at Wirt's suggestion) went—on May 12, 1829—to Philadelphia to see an expert critic and a leading publisher. Wirt's letter which he enclosed to Mr. Allan has been alluded to by Woodberry and Campbell, but has never been printed. Dr. Thomas Ollive Mabbott, of Columbia University, has kindly furnished the editor with a copy of the (slightly mutilated) letter, from the original manuscript in the Boston Library, and here it is:

"Baltimore May 11, 1829.

"Dear Sir:—

"It occurred to me, after you left me this morning, that I was probably losing you a day on your journey to Philadelphia, by proposing to detain your poem even until tomorrow, as I understand the day-boat [1] has commenced her spring trips between the cities. I thought it due to your convenience, therefore, to read the poem at once, and send it tonight.

"I am sensible of the compliment you pay me in submitting it to my judgment and only regret that you have not a better counsellor. But the truth is that having never written poetry myself, nor read much poetry for many years, I consider myself as by no means a competent judge poems. This is no doubt an old-fashioned idea resulting from the causes I have mentioned, my ignorance of modern poetry and modern taste. You perceive therefore that I am not qualified to judge of the merits of your poem. It will, I know, please modern readers—the notes contain

[1] This boat, according to an advertisement in the *Baltimore Republican*, July 13, 1829 (furnished by Dr. Mabbott) left the intersection of Light and Pratt Streets "at six o'clock in the morning."

a good deal of curious and useful information—but to deal candidly with you (as I am bound to do) I should doubt whether the poem will take with old-fashioned readers like myself. But this will be of little consequence—provided it be popular with modern readers—and of this, as I have already said, I am unqualified to judge. I would advise you, therefore, as a friend to get an introduction to Mr. Walsh or Mr. Hopkinson [2] or some other critic in Philadelphia, versed in modern". . . . .

(Conclusion and signature missing).

It is easy to see between the lines of Mr. Wirt's letter his struggle with the obscurities of "Al Aaraaf" but with a courtesy very beautiful from an old and distinguished man to an undeveloped youth, he gives Edgar's work serious attention, reading it through at a sitting to avoid delay of a day in securing for it the criticism he had advised.

Encouraged by Wirt's interest and Robert Walsh's promise of notice of "Al Aaraaf" in the *American Quarterly Review*, on publication, Edgar Poe (though frankly quoting both Wirt and Walsh as to the difficulty of getting poetry published in America) writes Mr. Allan, on May 29: "I am now going to make a request different from any I have ever made."

On the reverse of this letter Mr. Allan wrote "Replied to Monday, 8th June 1829 strongly censuring his conduct and refusing my aid."

[2] Author of *Hail Columbia*—the name almost cut away supplied by Dr. Mabbott.

LETTER NUMBER TWELVE

Baltimore May 29th
1829

Dear Pa,

I am now going to make a request different from any I have ever yet made—

As I wrote you, sometime since, I have been several times to visit Mr Wirt, who has treated me with great kindness & attention. I sent him, for his opinion, a day or two ago, a *poem* which I have written since I left home—& in the letter which I now enclose you have his opinion upon its merits—From such a man as Mr Wirt—the flattering character he has given of the work, will surely be to you a recommendation in its favor.
In the conclusion of the letter you will see that he advises me to "get a personal introduction to Mr Walsh" the editor of the American Quaterly Review & get his interest in my favor—that interest, and his highest encomiums on the poem are already obtained— as Editor of the Review he promises to notice it which will assure it, if not of popularity, of success—

Under these circumstances I have thought it my duty to write to you on the subject—Believing you to be free from prejudice, I think you will aid me, if you see cause ; At my time of life there is much in being *before the eye of the world*—if once noticed I can easily cut out a path

to reputation. It can certainly be of no disadvantage as it will not, even for a moment, interfere with other objects which I have in view.

I am aware of the difficulty of getting a poem published in this country—Mr Wirt & Mr Walsh have advised me of that—but the *difficulty* should be no object, with a proper aim in view.

If Mssrs Carey, Lea & Carey, should decline publishing (as I have no reason to think they will not—they having invariably declined it with all our American poets) that is upon their *own risk* the request I have to make is this —that you will give me a letter to Mssrs Carey, Lea & Carey saying that if in publishing the poem "Al Aaraaf" they shall incur any *loss*—you will make it good to them. The cost of publishing the work, in a style equal to any of our American publications, will at the extent be $100 —This then, of course, must be the limit of any loss supposing not a single copy of the work to be sold—It is more than probable that the work will be profitable & that I may gain instead of lose, even in a pecuniary way—I would remark, in conclusion that I have long given up *Byron* as a model—for which, I think, I deserve some credit—If you will help me in this matter I will be always grateful for your kindness.

If you conclude upon giving me a *trial* please enclose me the letter to Messrs Carey, Lea, & Carey—I shall wait anxiously for your answer—

Courtesy of the Edgar Allan Poe Shrine

BALTIMORE IN 1828

The birthplace of Poe's father. Here many of Poe's letters to John Allan were written. Here, at the age of 20, he published his second volume of poems. Here he won the short-story prize and made the friendship of Kennedy which gave him a real start on his literary career. Here he met Virginia Clemm—and the romance of his life. Here he died and he, Virginia and her mother are buried. Here the Poe Memorial Society of Baltimore has erected a statue of him, by Sir Moses Ezekiel

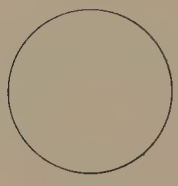
Give my love to Miss Valentine & all

I remain yours affect: E A. Poe

Please present my thanks to Col: Preston for his obliging letter.

replied to Monday 8th June 1829

strongly censuring his conduct—& refusing any aid—



3½

Mr. John Allan
Richmond,
Va.

Edgar A Poe
Balt. May 29 1829
Letter of Wm Wirt
answd 8th June 1829

Baltimore May 29th
1824

Dear Sir,

I am now going to make a request different from any I have ever yet made. As I wrote you, some time since, I have been several times to visit Mr Wirt, who had treated me with great kindness & attention. I sent him, for his opinion, a day or two ago, a poem which I have written since I left ——— & in the letter which I now enclose you have his opinion upon its merits. From such a quarter as Mr. Wirt, the flattering character he has given of the work, will surely be to you a recommendation in its favor.

In the conclusion of the letter you will see that he advises me to "get a personal introduction to Mr Walsh" the editor of the American Quaterly Review & get his interest in my favor. That interest, and his highest encomiums on the form are already obtained. As Editor of the Review he promises to notice it which will assure it, if not of popularity, of success.

Under these circumstances I have thought

it my duty to write to you on the subject. Believing you to be free from prejudice, I think you will aid me, if you see cause; at my time of life there is much in being before the eye of the world - if once noticed I can easily cut out a path to reputation. It can certainly be of no disadvantage as it will not, even for a moment, interfere with other objects which I have in view.

I am aware of the difficulty of getting a poem published in this country - Mr Wirt & Mr Walsh have advised me of that - but the difficulty should be no object, with a proper aim in view.

If Messrs Carey, Lea, & Carey, should decline publishing (as I have no reason to think they will not - They having invariably declined it with all our American poets) that is upon their own risk the request I have to make is this —— that you will give me a letter to Messrs Carey, Lea. & Carey, saying that if in publishing the poem "Al Aaraaf"

they shall incur any loss - you will make it good to them.

The cost of publishing the work, in a style equal to any of our American publications, will at the extent be $1/00. This then of course, must be the limit of any loss supposing not a single copy of the work to be sold - It is more than probable that the work will be profitable & that I may gain instead of lose, even in a pecuniary way.

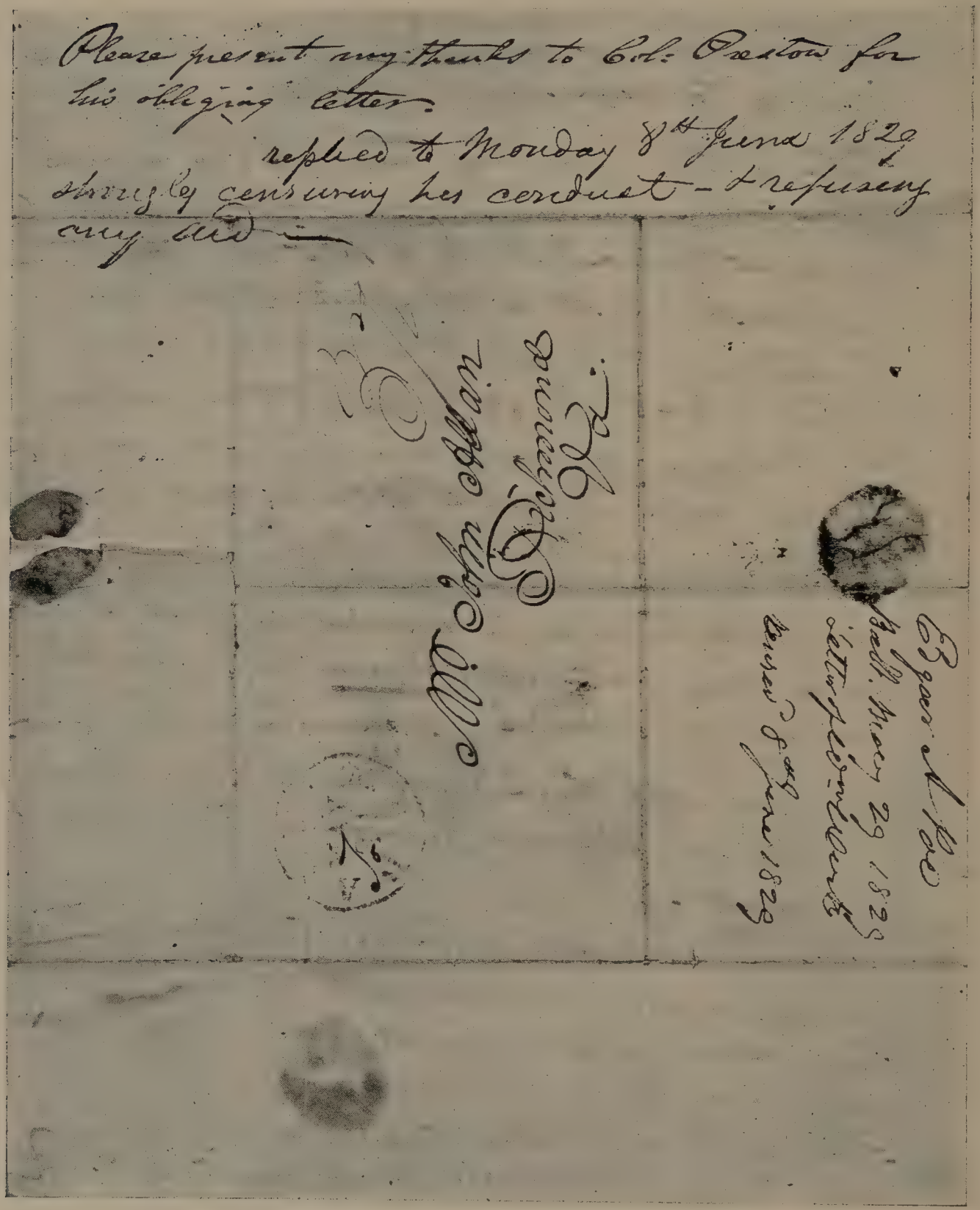
I would remark, in conclusion that I have long given up Byron as a model - for which, I think, I deserve some credit.

If you will help me in this matter I will be always grateful for your kindness.

If you conclude upon giving me a trial please enclose me the letter to Messrs Carey, Lea, & Carey - I shall wait anxiously for your answer.

Give my love to Miss Valentine & all

I remain Yours affect: Edg. Poe



Please present my thanks to Col: Preston for his obliging letter.

replied to Monday 8th June 1829
strongly censuring her conduct - & refusing
any aid —

To
Princeton
via Washington

Boston June 8th 1829

Gen. A. Jackson
Pres. U. States
Washington City

LETTER NUMBER THIRTEEN

EDGAR ALLAN POE, BALTIMORE, JUNE 25, 1829
TO JOHN ALLAN

LETTER NUMBER FOURTEEN

EDGAR ALLAN POE, BALTIMORE, JULY 15, 1829
TO JOHN ALLAN

LETTER NUMBER FIFTEEN

EDGAR ALLAN POE, BALTIMORE, JULY 26, 1829
TO JOHN ALLAN

COMMENT

These three letters which speak for themselves are read more comfortably if treated as a group—without the interruption of separate commentaries. That of June 25 shows that Edgar answered his foster-father's letter "refusing aid" by return post, but the letter in which he says he urged further support of his request to be allowed to publish a poem is missing. In this lost letter he seems to have asked for money to meet his expenses during the wait in Baltimore, but neither the missing letter (June 10) nor the letters of June 25 and July 15 received replies. Between the lines of these unanswered letters is read a story of growing need and the reader of today breathes easier when he scans the opening words of Number Fifteen (July 26) acknowledging "Yours of the 19th"—the first line he had received since the "censure" of June 8. "Dear Pa," he writes, "I am truly thankful for the money which you sent me." His journey to Washington and back on foot, to see about his appointment to West Point, suggests that he had learned well the lesson to make a dollar go as far as possible.

It is evident that while in Philadelphia he had left "Al Aaraaf" with Carey, Lea & Carey, well known publishers. The rumour that he was a descendant of Benedict Arnold doubtless arose from the fact that the maiden name of his English-born mother was Arnold.

The poet clings desperately to hope for his foster-father's approval of the publication of "Al Aaraaf" and awaits his answer with "great anxiety."

"The Byrd" means the Allans' farm, the Lower Byrd Plantation in Goochland county, not far from Richmond.

LETTER NUMBER THIRTEEN

Baltimore
June 25 1829

Dear Pa,

I wrote you on the 10th of June in reply to yours of the 8th in which I urged my reasons in further support of my request to be allowed to publish a poem—& I *did* intend, but forgot to say, in conclusion, that as I had submitted the question of its being expedient to your decision—I should by no means publish it without your approbation—I say this now, because I fear from your silence that I have offended you in pressing my request any farther.

The poem is now in the hands of Carey, Lea & Carey and I am only waiting for your answer to withdraw it or not—It was my wish immediately upon receiving your letter to return home thro' Washington & ascertain the fate of my application—~~of~~ which I am induced to think has succeeded—as there were, I understand several rejected—

This I will do immediately upon hearing from you.

In whatever errors I may have been led into, I would beg you to judge me impartially & to believe that I have acted from the single motive of trying to do something for myself—& with your assistance I trust I may—I have left untried no efforts to enter at W. Point & if I fail I can give you evidence that it is no fault of mine—but I hope to succeed—

I am afraid you will think that I am trying to impose on your good nature & would not except under peculiar circumstances have applied to you for any more money—but it is only a little that I now want.

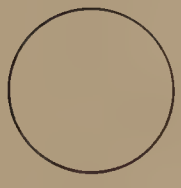
I will explain the matter clearly— ——— ——— ——— robbed me at Beltzhoover's Hotel while I was asleep in the same room with him of all the money I had with me (about 46$) of which I recovered $10—by searching his pockets the ensuing night, when he acknowledged the theft—I have been endeavouring in vain to obtain the balance from him—he says he has not got it & begs me not to expose him—& for his wife's sake I will not. I have a letter from him referring to the subject, which I will show you on arriving in Richmond.

I have been moderate in my expences & $50 of the money which you sent me I applied in paying a debt contracted at Old Point for my substitute, for which I gave my note—the money necessary if Lt Howard had not gone on furlough would have been only 12$ as a bounty—but when he & Col: House left I had to scuffle for myself —I paid $25—& gave my note for $50—in all 75$.

Since I have been in Baltimore I have learnt something concerning my descent which would have, I am afraid, no very favourable effect if known to the War Dept viz: that I am the grandson of General Benedict Arnold —but this there will be no necessity of telling—

Edgar A Poe
June 25th 1829

John Allan Esqr
Richmond,
Va:



Give my best love to all my friends—I hope you will give me a favourable answer concerning my poem tho' I will strictly abide by your decision—

I am yours affectly

E. A. Poe

Baltimore
June 25. 1825

Dear Sir,

I wrote you on the 10th of June in reply to yours of the 8th in which I urged my reasons in further support of my request to be allowed to publish a poem — I did intend, but forgot to say, in conclusion that as I had submitted the question of its being expedient to your decision — I should by no means publish it without your approbation — I say this now, because I fear from your silence that I have offended you in pressing my request any further.

The poem is now in the hands of Carey, Lea & Carey and I am only waiting for your answer to withdraw it or not. It was my wish immediately upon receiving your letter to return home thro' Washington in order to ascertain the fate of my application — & which I am induced to think has succeeded — as there was, I understand several rejected —

This I will do immediately upon learning

from you.

In whatever errors e may have been led into, I would beg you to judge me impartially & to believe that I have acted from the single motive of trying to do something for myself - & with your assistance I trust I may - I have left untried no efforts to enter at W. Point & if I fail I can give you evidence that it is no fault of mine - but I hope to succeed -

I am afraid you will think that I am trying to impose on your good nature & would not except under peculiar circumstances have applied to you for any more money - but it is only a little that I now want. I will explain the matter clearly -

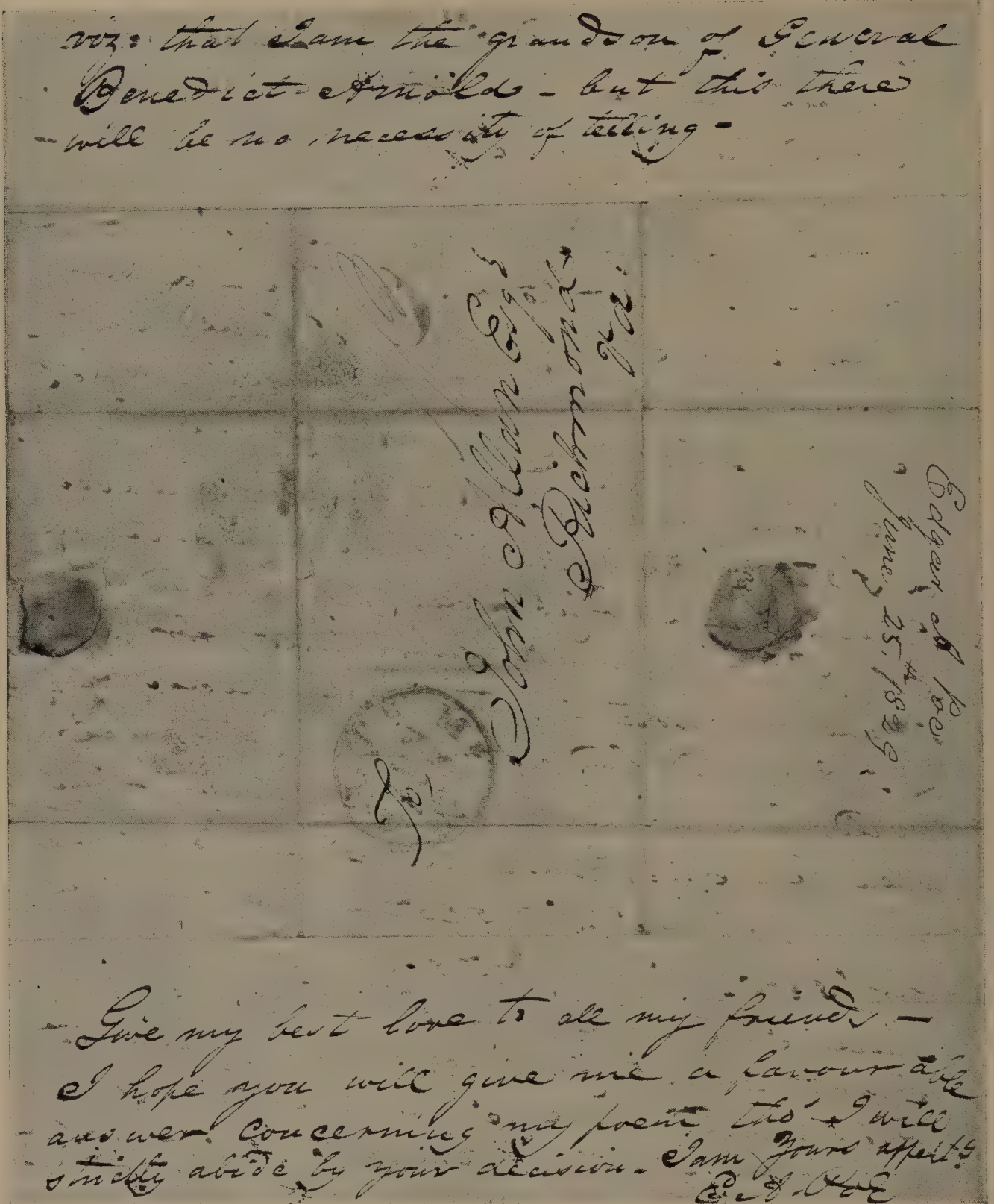
robbed me at Bettzhoover's Hotel while I was asleep in the same room with him of all the money I had with me (about 46 $)

- of which I recovered $10 - by searching his
pockets the morning after, when he acknow-
-ledged the theft - I have been endea-
vouring in vain to obtain the balance
from him - he says he has not got it
& begs me not to expose him - & for his
wifes sake I will not. I have a letter
from him referring to the subject, which
I will show you on arriving in Richmond.

I have been moderate in my expences
& of the money which you sent me
I applied in paying a debt contracted at
Old Point for my substitute, for
I gave my note - the money necessary if
Lt. Howard had not gone on furlough
would have been only $12 as a bounty - but
when he & Col. Howe left I had to outfit
for myself - I paid $25 & gave my note
for $50. in all $75.

Since I have been in Baltimore I have
learnt something concerning my descent
which would have, I am afraid, no very
favourable effect if known to the Star. Dr. T.

viz: that I am the grandson of General Benedict Arnold - but this there will be no necessity of telling -



- Give my best love to all my friends - I hope you will give me a favour able answer concerning my post tho' I will strictly abide by your decision. I am Yours affectly
E. A. Arnold

LETTER NUMBER FOURTEEN

Baltimore
July 15th 1829

Dear Pa,

I have written you twice lately & have received no answer—I would not trouble you so often with my letters, but I am afraid that being up at the Byrd you might probably not have received them—I am very anxious to return home thro' Washington when I have every hope of being appointed for Sepr & besides by being detained at Baltimore I am incurring uneccessary expense as Grandmother is not in a situation to give me any accomodation—

I sometimes am afraid that you are angry & perhaps you have reason to be—but if you will but put a little more confidence in me—I will endeavour to deserve it—I am sure no one can be more anxious, or would do more towards helping myself than I would—if I had any means of doing it—without your assistance, I have none—I am anxious to abide by your directions, if I knew what they were—

You would relieve me from a great deal of anxiety by writing me soon—I think I have already had my share of trouble for one so young—

I am
Dear Pa
Yours affectionately
Edgar A. Poe

Edgar A Poe
July 15 1829

John Allan Esq[r]
Richmond
Va

Baltimore
July 15th 1829

Dear Pa

I have written you twice lately & have received no answer — I would not trouble you so often with my letters, but I am afraid that being up at the Byrd you might probably not have received them — I am very anxious to return home thro' Washington when I have every hope of being appointed for Sept^r & besides by being detained at Baltimore I am incurring unnecessary expence as Grandmother is not in a situation to give me any accomodation —

I sometimes am afraid that you are angry & perhaps you have reason to be — but if you will but put a little more confidence in me — I will endeavor to deserve it —

I am sure no one can be more anxious, or would do more towards helping myself than I would — if I had any means of doing it — without your assistance, I have none — I am anxious to abide by your directions, if I knew what they were —

You would relieve me from a great deal of anxiety by writing me soon — I think I have already had my share of trouble for one so young —

I am
Dear Pa
Yours affectionately
Edgar A. Poe

LETTER NUMBER FIFTEEN

Baltimore

July 26—1829

Dear Pa,

I received yours of the 19th on the 22d ultº & am truly thankful for the money which you sent me, notwithstanding the taunt with which it was given "that men of genius ought not to apply to your aid"—It is too often their necessity to want that little timely assistance which would prevent such applications—

I did not answer your letter by return of mail on account of my departure for Washington the next morning —but before I proceed to tell the event of my application I think it my duty to say something concerning the accusations & suspicions which are contained in your letter— As regards the substitute, the reason why I did not tell you that it would cost $75—was that I could not possibly foresee so improbable an event—The bounty is $12—& ~~unless~~ but for the absence of Col: House & Lt Howard at the time of my discharge it would have been all that I should have had to pay—The officer commanding a company can (if he pleases) enlist the first recruit who offers & muster him as a substitute for another, of course paying only the bounty of 12$ but as Lt Howard & Col: House were both absent, this arrangement could not be effected— As I had told you it would only cost me $12—I did not

wish to make you think me imposing upon you—so upon a substitute offering for $75—I gave him $25—& gave him my note of hand for the balance—when you remitted me $100—thinking I had more than I should want, I thought it my best opportunity of taking up my note—which I did.

If you will take into consideration the length of time I have been from home, which was occasioned by my not hearing from you (& I was unwilling to leave the city without your answer, expecting it every day) & other expenses, you will find that it has been impossible for me to enter into any extravagancies or improper expense —even supposing I had not lost the $46—the time which intervened between my letter & your answer in the first instance was 22 days—in the latter one month & 4 days —as I had no reason to suppose you would not reply to my letter as I was unconscious of having offended, it would have been imprudent to leave without your answer —this expense was unavoidable—As regards the money which was stolen I have sent you the only proof in my possession a letter from ——— ——— — in which there is an acknowledgement of the theft—I have no other. On receiving your last letter, I went immediately to Washington, on foot, & have returned the same way having paid away $40 for my bill & being unwilling to spend the balance when I might avoid it, until I could see what prospects were in view—I saw

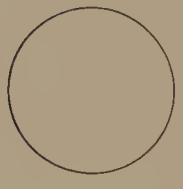
Mr Eaton, he addressed me by name, & in reply to my questions told me—" that of the 47 surplus, on the roll, which I mentioned in my former letters, 19 were rejected 10 dismissed & 8 resigned—consequently there was yet a surplus of 10 before me on the roll. On asking for my papers of recommendation, which might be of service elsewhere—he told me that in that case my application would be considered as withdrawn, which he strongly advised me not to do—saying that there were still hopes of my obtaining the appointment in Sepr as during the encapment every year there were numerous resignations—if the number exceeded 10 I should be sure of the appt without further application in Sepr if not I would at least be among the first on the next roll for the ensuing year—when of course my appointment was certain —when I mentioned that I feared my age would interfere, he replied that 21 was the limit—that many entered at that time—& that I might call myself 21 until I was 22—On leaving the office he called me back to endorse on my papers the name of my P. office—I wrote Richmond. He said that I should certainly hear from him and that he regretted my useless trip to Washington—These are his precise words—

Having now explained every circumstance that seemed to require an explanation & shown that I have spared no exertions in the pursuit of my object. I write to you

for information as to what course I must pursue—I would have returned home immediately but for the words in your letter "I am not particularly anxious to see you"—I know not how to interpret them

I could not help thinking that they amounted to a prohibition to return—if I had any means of support until I could obtain the appointment, I would not trouble you again—I am conscious of having offended you formerly—greatly— but I thought *that had been forgiven*. at least you told me so— I know that I have done nothing since to deserve your displeasure—

John Allan Esq[r]
Richmond
Va:



Edgar A. Poe
July 26[th] 1829

As regards the poem, I have offended only in asking your approbation—I can publish it upon the terms you mentioned—but will have no more to do with it without your entire approbation—I will wait with great anxiety for your answer. You must be aware how important it is that I should hear from you soon—as I do not know how to act.

I am yours affectionately
Edgar A Poe

Dear Sir

Baltimore July 26th 1820

I received your of the 18th on the 21st inst and am truly thankful for the money which you sent me, notwithstanding the taunt with which it was given "that men of ground ought not to apply to your aid" — it is too often their necessity to want that little timely assistance which would prevent such application —

I did not answer your letter by return of mail on account of my departure for Washington the next morning — but before I proceed to tell the event of my application I think it my duty to say something concerning the accusations & suspicions which are contained in your letter —

As regards the substitute, the reason why I did not tell you that it would cost $75 — was that I could not possibly foresee so improbable an event — The bounty is $12 — & but for the absence of Col: Bouse & Lt: Howard at the time of my discharge it would have been all that I should have had to pay. The officer commanding a company can (if he please) enlist the first recruit who offers & muster him as a substitute for another, & course paying only the bounty of 12 $ but as Lt: Howard & Col: Bouse were both absent this arrangement could not be effected. If I had told you it would only cost me $12 I did not wish to make you think me imposing upon you — so upon a substitute offering for $75 — I gave him $25 — & gave him my note of hand for the balance — when you remitted me $100 — thinking I had more than I should want. I thought to pay my note with my first opportunity & taking up my note — which I did.

If you will take into consideration the length of time I have been from home, which was occasioned by my not hearing from you (& I was unwilling to leave the city without your answer, expecting it every day) & other expences, you will find that it has been impossible for me to enter into any extravagancies or improper expence - even supposing I had not lost the £46 - the time which intervened between my letter & your answer in the first instance was 22 days - in the latter one month & 4 days - as I had no reason to suppose you would not reply to my letter as I was unconscious of having offended it would have been imprudent to leave without your answer - this expence was unavoidable. As regards the money which was stolen I have sent you the only proof in my possession a letter from Mother - in which there is an acknowledgement of the theft - I have no other. In receiving your last letter, I went immediately to Washington, on foot, & have returned the same way, having paid away £40 for my bill & being unwilling to spend the balance which I might avoid it, until I could see what prospects were in view - I saw Mr Eaton, he addressed me by name, & in reply to my questions told me "that of the 47 surplus, on the roll, which I mentioned in my former letters, 19 were rejected 9 dismissed & 8 resigned - consequently there

was yet a surplus of 10 before me on the roll.
On asking for my papers of recommendation, which
might be of service elsewhere — he told me that
in that case my application would be considered
as withdrawn, which he strongly advised me
not to do — saying that there were still hopes of
my obtaining the appointment in Sept^r as during
the encampment every year there were numerous
resignations — if the number exceeded 10 I should
be sure of the appt: without further application in
Sept^r: if not I would at least be among the
first on the next roll for the ensuing year — when
of course my appointment was certain — when
I mentioned that I feared my age would interfere
he replied that 21 was the limit — that many
entered at that time — & that I might call
myself 21 until I was 22 — On leaving the
office he called me back to endorse on my
papers the name of my P. Office — I wrote Richmond
He said that I should certainly hear from him.
& that he regretted my useless trip to Washington —
These are his precise words —
Having now explained every circumstance that
seemed to require an explanation I shown that
I have spared no exertions in the pursuit of my
object. I write to you for information as to what
course I must pursue — I would have re-
turned home immediately but the word
your letter " I am not particularly anxious
to see you " I know not how to interpret them

I could not help thinking that they amounted to a prohibition to return — if I had any means of support until I could obtain the appointment, I would not trouble you again — I am conscious of having offended you formerly — greatly — but I thought that had been forgiven. At last you told me so — I know that I have done nothing since to deserve your displeasure —

Postmaster
Fredericksburg
Virginia

Edgar A. Poe
July 20, 1829

As regards the poems, I have offended only in asking your approbation — I can publish it upon the terms you mentioned — but will have no more to do with it without your entire approbation — I will wait with great anxiety for your answer — You must be aware how important it is that I should hear from you soon — as I do not know how to act.

I am Yours affectionately Edgar A. Poe

LETTER NUMBER SIXTEEN

EDGAR ALLAN POE, BALTIMORE, AUGUST 4, 1829
TO JOHN ALLAN

COMMENT

No answer having been received to his letter of July 26 Poe—evidently in straits—makes another appeal for confidence, forgiveness of past faults, permission to come "home." Three things Poe was working desperately for—to reinstate himself in Mr. Allan's favor, to publish his work, to secure a cadetship. In the meantime his existence during the wait for his appointment—possibly in September, more probably the following June—seemed to depend on permission to go "home." "If I could manage until that time I would be no longer a trouble to you," he writes. And herein is a suggestion of one reason for his desire for the cadetship—to rid Mr. Allan of responsibility of his support. In the words of Eugene L. Didier, Poe "had been taught to spend thousands, but had never been taught to earn a dollar." [4]

[4] "The Poe Cult," p. 17.

LETTER NUMBER SIXTEEN

Baltimore Aug: 4-/29

Dear Sir,

I am unable to account for your not answering—if you are offended with me—I repeat that I have done nothing to deserve your displeasure. If you doubt what I say & think that I have neglected to use any exertions in the procuring my warrant—write yourself to Mr Eaton & he will tell you that more exertions could not have been—the appt might have been obtained for June if the application had been made 2 months sooner & you will remember that I was under the impression that you were making exertions to obtain the situation for me, while I was at Old Point & so situated as to be unable to use any exertions of my own—On returning home nothing had been done—it is therefore unjust to blame me for a failure, after using every endeavour, when success was impossible rendered so by your own delay—
If you have not forgiven me for my former conduct—that is a different thing—but you told me that you had —I am however aware that I have many enemies at home who fancy it their interest to injure me in your estimation—
By your last letter I understood that it was not your wish that I should return home—I am anxious to do so —but if you think that I should not—I only wish to know what course I shall pursue—

If you are determined to do nothing more in my behalf —you will at least do me the common justice to tell me so—I am almost sure of getting the appt in Sept & certain at any rate of getting it in June, if I could manage until that time I would be no longer a trouble to you—
I think it no more than right that you should answer my letter—
Perhaps the time may come when you will find that I have not deserved ½ the misfortunes which have happened to me & that you suspected me unworthily

I am
Yours &c
Edgar A. Poe

Edgar A Poe
Aug^{t} 4th 1829

Mr. John Allan
Richmond,
Va

Baltimore Aug: 4 - 29

Dear Sir

I am unable to account for your not answering — if you are offended with me — I repeat that I have done nothing to deserve your displeasure. If you doubt what I say I think that I have neglected to use any exertions in the procuring me pursuit — write you see to Mr Eaton & he will tell you that more exertions could not have been — the appt might have been obtained for June if the application had been made 2 months sooner & you will remember that I was under the impression that you were making exertions to obtain the situation for me, while I was at Old Point & so situated as to be unable to use any exertions of my own — On returning home nothing had been done — it is therefore unjust to blame me for a failure; after using every endeavour, when success was impossible rendered so by your own delay) —

If you had not forgiven me for my former conduct — that is a different thing — but you told me that you had — I am however aware that I have many friends at home who have it their interest to injure me in your estimation —

By your last letter I understood that it was not your wish that I should return home — I am anxious to do so — but if you think that I should not — I only wish to know what course I shall pursue — If you are determined to do nothing more in my behalf — you will at least do me the common justice to tell me so — I am almost sure of getting the appt in Sept: & certain at any rate of getting it in June. if I could manage until that time I would be no longer a trouble to you —

I think it no more than right that you should answer my letter —

Perhaps the time may come when you will find that I have not deserved the misfortunes which have happened to me & that you suspected me unworthily

I am
Yours —
Edgar A. Poe

LETTER NUMBER SEVENTEEN

EDGAR ALLAN POE, BALTIMORE, AUGUST 10, 1829
TO JOHN ALLAN

COMMENT

The opening sentence suggests that the letter received that morning from his foster-father contained kindness as well as the first money he had had since the letter of July 19, and the last he was to have until the middle of November. (See Numbers Nineteen and Twenty.) It evidently contained no invitation to come "home" and Poe's answer—by return post—shows that he despairs of receiving one, as he sends Mr. Allan a calculation as to the least allowance upon which he can exist in a cheap boarding house in Baltimore and asks that "a small trunk containing books and some letters" which he had left in Richmond, be forwarded to him. Twenty years later, when Poe died in Baltimore, most of his estate consisted of a small black leather trunk, bound with iron hoops and containing manuscripts and a few other belongings. The trunk and its key (which was found in the dead poet's pocket) were turned over to his cousin, Neilson Poe, who sent them to Edgar's sister Rosalie at "Duncan Lodge," Richmond, the home of the MacKensies, who had adopted and reared her. Rosalie gave the trunk and key to Jane MacKensie Miller, of Matthews County, Virginia, only grandchild of her foster-mother, who, in 1923, conveyed them to the "Edgar Allan Poe Shrine," Richmond, where they may now be seen.[1]

[1] The whereabouts of the trunk was traced and its history verified by Mr. J. H. Whitty. It was procured by Mrs. Archer Jones who, together with her husband, founded the Edgar Allan Poe Shrine.

LETTER NUMBER SEVENTEEN

Baltimore
August 10th 1829

Dear Pa,

I received yours this morning which relieved me from more trouble than you can well imagine—I was afraid that you were offended & although I knew that I had done nothing to deserve your anger, I was in a most uncomfortable situation—without one cent of money—in a strange place & so quickly engaged in difficulties after the serious misfortunes which I have just escaped —My grandmother is extremely poor & ill (paralytic) My aunt Maria if possible still worse & Henry entirely given up to drink & unable to help himself, much less me—

I am unwilling to appear obstinate as regards the substitute so will say nothing more concerning it—only remarking that they will no longer enlist men for the *residue* of another's enlistment as formerly, consequently my substitute was enlisted for 5 years not 3—

I stated in my last letter (to which I refer you) that Mr Eaton gave me strong hopes for Sept at any rate that the appt could be obtained for June next—I can obtain decent board lodging & washing with other expenses of mending &c for 5 & perhaps for $4\frac{1}{2}$$ per week—If I obtain the appt by the last of Sept the amt of expense would be at most $30

—If I should be unfortunate and not obtain it until June I will not desire you to allow as much as that per week because by engaging for a longer period at a cheap boarding house I can do with much less—say even 10 even 8$ pr month —anything with which you think it possible to exist— I am not so anxious of obtaining money from your good nature as of preserving your good will—
I am extremely anxious that you should believe that I have not attempted to impose upon you—I will in the meantime (if you wish it) write you often, but pledge myself to apply for no other assistance than what you shall think proper to allow—

I left behind me in Richmond a small trunk containing books & some letters—will you forward it on to Baltimore to the care of *H. W. Bool Jr.* & if you think I may ask so much perhaps you will put in it for me some few clothes as I am nearly without—

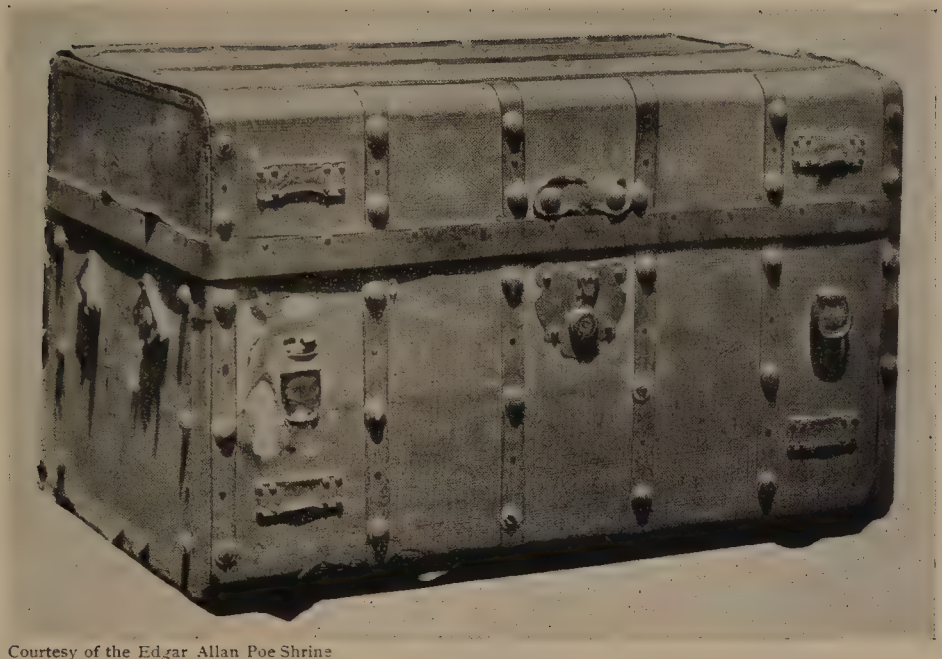
Give my love to Miss Valentine—

I remain

Dear Pa

Yours affectionately

Edgar A. Poe



Courtesy of the Edgar Allan Poe Shrine

POE'S TRUNK

It generally had in it some of his manuscripts along with his other belongings. It was with him in Baltimore at the time of his death and its key was found in his pocket

Edgar A Poe

Augt 10th 1829

Answd Aug 19, 1829
inclosed him $50

Mr. John Allan
Richmond
Va

Dear Pa,

Baltimore August 10th 1829

I received yours this morning which relieved me from more trouble than you can well imagine — I was afraid that you were offended & although I knew that I had done nothing to deserve your anger, I was in a most uncomfortable situation — without one cent of money — in a strange place & so quickly engaged in difficulties after the serious misfortunes which I have just escaped — My grandmother is extremely poor & ill [paralytic] My aunt Maria if possible still worse & Henry entirely given up to drink & unable to help himself, much less me —

I am unwilling to appear obstinate as regards the substitute so will say nothing more concerning it — only remarking that they will no longer enlist men for the residue of another's enlistment as formerly, consequently my substitute was enlisted for 5 years not 3 —

I stated in my last letter [to which I refer you] that Mr. Eaton gave me strong hopes for Sept. 2 at any rate that the appt. could be obtained for June next — I can obtain decent board

lodging & washing with other expenses of mending &c for 5 & perhaps even for 4½ $ per week —

If I obtain the appt by the last of Sept the amt of expense would be at most $30 — until June If I should be unfortunate & not obtain it — I will not desire you to allow as much as that per week because by engaging for a longer period at a cheap boarding house I can do with much less — say even 10 even 8 $ pr month — any thing with which you think it possible to exist — I am not so anxious of obtaining money from your good nature as of preserving your good will —

I am extremely anxious that you should believe that I have not attempted to impose upon you — I will in the meantime (if you wish it) write you often, but pledge myself to apply for no other assistance than what you shall think proper to allow —

I left behind me in Richmond a small trunk containing books & some letters — will you forward it on to Baltimore to the care of H. W. Bool Jr & if you think I may ask so much perhaps you

will put in it for me some few clothes as I am nearly without —

Give my Love to Miss Valentine —

I remain
Dear Pa
Yours affectionately
Edgar A. Poe

LETTER NUMBER EIGHTEEN

EDGAR ALLAN POE, BALTIMORE, OCTOBER 30, 1829
TO JOHN ALLAN

COMMENT

September has passed and Edgar has not received the appointment to West Point. This letter is evidently in reply to one from Mr. Allan reproaching him for lack of "industry and zeal" in efforts to obtain it, and also accusing him of having resorted to deceit in professed expectation of it. To clear himself of these suspicions (See Letter Nineteen) Poe explains his failure to secure the appointment in September and his reasons for confidently expecting it for the next term. In this, as in all of these Baltimore letters, he pleads passionately for affection and forgiveness.

Poe had one ray of brightness to help him bear his disappointment. In his efforts toward recognition for his work he wrote either directly to John Neal, Editor of *The Yankee and Boston Literary Gazette*, enclosing some of his verses, or he wrote to some one in Boston who showed the letter to that accomplished author and editor. Neal had lived in Baltimore and of course Poe knew of him there, though the two had never met. He was one of the leading literary critics of the day and according to the *Cyclopedia of American Biography* was the first American writer whose articles appeared in English and Scotch reviews and magazines. Poe's letter no longer exists and its date is unknown, but Neal commented on it in *The Yankee* for September, in half satirical half complimentary style, pronouncing the poem enclosed "though nonsense rather exquisite nonsense" and declaring that if the youthful poet "would but do himself justice" he might "make a beautiful and perhaps a magnificent poem." Adding, "There is a good deal here to justify such a hope," he quoted fifteen lines of "Heaven"—later published in Poe's collected verse under the title "Fairyland"—but said that the poet "should have signed it Bah!"

Mr. Allan undoubtedly saw Neal's comment. Poe would have taken pains that he should see it and Neal's place as a critic was of course well known to him, as the magazines for which Neal wrote had subscribers in Richmond.

Edgar's reply (in Letter Eighteen) to Mr. Allan's request to see his poems is proof that such a request had been made and is the first sign of interest in the boy's work of which there is documentary evidence. It is a significant sign coming on the heels of Neal's notice.

LETTER NUMBER EIGHTEEN

Balt^{o} Oct: 30. 1829.

Dear Pa—

I received your letter this evening and am grieved that I can give you no positive evidence of my industry & zeal as regards the app^{t} at W. Point: unless you will write to M^{r} Eaton himself who well remembers me & the earnestness of my application.

But you are labouring under a mistake which I beg you to correct by reference to all my former letters— I stated that M^{r} Eaton told me that an app^{t} could be obtained by Sep^{r} *provided* there were a sufficient number *rejected* at the June examination & regretted that I had not made an earlier application—that *at all events* with the strong recommendations I had brought that I should have an app^{t} at the next term which is in June next——

So far from having any doubts of my app^{t} at that time, I am as certain of obtaining it as I am of being alive——

If you find this statement to be in correct then condemn me—otherwise acquit me of any intention to practise upon your good nature—which I now feel myself to be above—

It is my intention upon the receipt of your letter to go again to Washington &, tho' contrary to the usual practice, I will get M^{r} Eaton to give me my letter of

appt *now* —it will consist of an order to repair to W. P. in June for examination &c—& forward it to you that all doubts may be removed—I will tell him why I want it at present & I think he will give it.

I would have sent you the M. S. of my poems long ago for your approval, but since I have collected them they have been continually in the hands of some person or another—& I have not had them in my own possession since Carey & Lea took them—I will send them to you at the first opportunity—

I am sorry that your letters to me have still with them a tone of anger as if my former errors were not forgiven—if I knew how to regain your affection God knows I would do any thing I could—

I am

Yours affectionately

Edgar A. Poe

John Allan Esq^r
Richmond
Va.

E. A. Poe
Oct. 30 1829

Balt.o Oct. 30. 82.

Dear Pa –

I received your letter this evening and am grieved that I can give you no positive evidence of my industry & zeal as regards the appt at W. Point: unless you will write to Mr Eaton himself who well remembers me & the earnestness of my application. But you are labouring under a mistake which I beg you to correct by reference to all my former letters — I stated that Mr Eaton told me that an appt could be obtained by Sept provided there were a sufficient number rejected at the June examination & regretted that I had not made an earlier application — that at all events with the strong recommendations I had brought that I should have an appt at the next term which is in June next —

So far from having any doubts of my appt at that time I am as certain of obtaining it as I am of being alive —

If you find this statement to be incorrect then condemn me — otherwise acquit me of any intention to practise upon your good nature — which I now feel myself to be above —

It is my intention upon the receipt of your letter to go again to Washington & tho' contrary to the usual practice, I will get Mr Eaton to give me my letter of appt now

– it will consist of an order to repair to W. P. in June for examination &c – & forward it to you that all doubts may be removed. I will tell him why I want it at present & I think he will give it.

I would have sent you the M.S. of my Poems long ago for your approval, but since I have collected them they have been continually in the hands of some person or another. & I have not had them in my own possession since Carey & Lea took them – I will send them to you at the first opportunity –

I am sorry that your letters to me have still with them a tone of anger as if my former errors were not forgiven – if I knew how to regain your affection God knows I would do any thing I could –

I am
Yours affectionately
Edgar A. Poe

LETTER NUMBER NINETEEN

EDGAR ALLAN POE, BALTIMORE, NOVEMBER 12, 1829
TO JOHN ALLAN

COMMENT

This pitiful letter speaks for itself.

LETTER NUMBER NINETEEN

Balto Nov: 12th 1829

Dear Pa,

I wrote you about a fortnight ago and as I have not heard from you, I was afraid you had forgotten me—

I would not trouble you so often if I was not extremely pinched—I am almost without clothes—and, as I board by the month, the lady with whom I board is anxious for her money—I have not had any (you know) since the middle of August—

I hope the letter I wrote last was received in which you will see that I have cleared myself from any censure of neglect as regards W.P.—

Hoping that you will not forget to write as soon as you receive this

I am Dear Pa
Yours affectionately
Edgar A Poe

E. A. Poe
Nov 12th 1829

M. John Allan
Richmond
Va

Paris Oct: 12th 1815

Dear Sir,

I wrote you about a fortnight ago and as I have not heard from you, I was afraid you had forgotten me —

I would not trouble you so soon if I was not extremely pinched — I am almost without clothes — and, as I heard by the mail, the lady with whom I board is anxious for her money — I have not had any from home since the middle of August —

I hope the letter I wrote last was received in which you will see that I have cleared myself from any censure of neglect as regards W.P. —

Hoping that you will not forget to write as soon as you receive this

I am Dear Sir

Yours affectionately

Edgar A Poe

LETTER NUMBER TWENTY

EDGAR ALLAN POE, BALTIMORE, NOVEMBER 18, 1829
TO JOHN ALLAN

COMMENT

Brief as it is this letter contains some important items.

It shows that Letter Nineteen (probably aided by Neal's good auguries for Poe—which would have been certain to impress "Miss Nancy" Valentine, the Galts, the Ellises and others in Richmond who had influence with John Allan) brought Edgar relief within a week.

It contains the first documentary evidence of intimacy at the home of Mrs. Clemm ("Aunt Maria") which was of course also the home of his future wife, Virginia—then but a child.

It contains the announcement that "The poems will be printed!" Hatch and Dunning, printers of the Baltimore City directory for many years had doubtless also been impressed by editorial notice of Poe in *The Yankee*—for good words in a literary journal of intellectual Boston and from a critic whose ability was so well known in Baltimore was "approbation from Sir Hubert" —and so they agreed to bring out the poems upon terms which Poe pronounced advantageous to him. He would doubtless have considered any terms advantageous which would effect the transmutation of his neat manuscript to a printed book. The volume contained not only "Al Aaraaf," but "Tamerlane"—painstakingly revised—and a few short pieces.

After making his arrangement with Hatch and Dunning Poe succeeded in bringing himself a second time to the attention of John Neal, who in the December number of *The Yankee* printed a letter written by Poe to one who (says the editor) "has laid it on our table for a good purpose"—with extracts from Poe's forthcoming book and with praise and sound advice from himself. This is the earliest known letter of Poe's until those in the Valentine Museum appearing now for the first time:

"I am young" (it says) "—not quite twenty—*am* a poet—if deep worship of all beauty can make me one—and wish to be so in the more common meaning of the word. I would give the world

to embody one half the ideas afloat in my imagination. (By the way, do you remember—or did you ever read the exclamation of Shelley about Shakespeare?—'What a number of ideas must have been afloat before such an author could arise!'), I appeal to you as a man that loves the same beauty which I adore—the beauty of the natural blue sky and the sunshiny earth—there can be no tie more strong than that of brother for brother—it is not so much that they both love the same parent—their affections are always running in the same direction—the same channel—and cannot help mingling. . . . . .

"I am about to publish a volume of 'Poems,' the greater part written before I was fifteen. Speaking about 'Heaven,' the editor of the 'Yankee' says, 'He might write a beautiful, if not a magnificent poem'—(the very first words of encouragement I ever remember to have heard). I am very certain that as yet I have not written *either*—but that I *can*, I will take oath—if they will give me time.

"The poems to be published are 'Al Aaraaf'—'Tamerlane'—one about four and the other about three hundred lines, with smaller pieces. 'Al Aaraaf' has some good poetry, and much extravagance which I have not had time to throw away.

" 'Al Aaraaf' is a tale of another world—the star discovered by Tycho Brahe, which appeared and disappeared so suddenly—or rather, it is no tale at all. I will insert an extract, about the palace of its presiding Deity, in which you will see that I have supposed many of the lost sculptures of our world to have flown (in spirit) to the star 'Al Aaraaf'—a delicate place, more suited to their divinity."

Neal gives two passages from "Al Aaraaf" (one of 33 and one of 8 lines) two from "Tamerlane" (one of 43 and one of 22 lines) and one passage of 14 lines from the "Minor Poems." In an article on "Unpublished Poetry" containing the letter quoted above, the editor of *The Yankee* thus introduces Poe's work:

"The following passages are from the manuscript works of a

young author, about to be published in Baltimore. He is entirely a stranger to us, but with all their faults, if the remainder of 'Al Aaraaf' and 'Tamerlane' are as good as the body of the extracts here given, to say nothing of the more extraordinary parts, he will deserve to stand high—very high—in the estimation of the shining brotherhood. Whether he *will* do so, however, must depend, not so much upon his worth now in mere poetry, as upon his worth hereafter in something yet loftier and more generous—we allude to the stronger properties of the mind, to the magnanimous determination that enables a youth to endure the present, whatever the present may be, in the hope or rather in the belief, the fixed, unwavering belief, that in the future he will find his reward."

Wholesome words of admonition these for a young poet, or for any youth. The brilliant writer who penned them has been well nigh forgotten—well nigh, but not quite. His utterances of praise and prophecy for Edgar Poe have kept his own memory green and will continue to be quoted in biographies and estimates of Poe in the future as they have been in the past.

"Al Aaraaf, Tamerlane and Minor Poems" made its bow soon after Poe's letter with extracts and Neal's comment had appeared in the December *Yankee*. It is an octavo of 71 pages and slender as it is, is not only about twice as large as "Tamerlane" but it makes a more presentable appearance. It bears witness to much more work than its title page suggests for "Tamerlane" and all of the "Minor Poems" which appear a second time show studious revision. All students of Poe have observed how his exacting literary conscience prodded him to constant improvement of his lines and never let him reprint anything without effort toward betterment.

Of course most of "Al Aaraaf" is a crude jumble of imagery and shows the influence of the poetry in which he had soaked his mind—especially that of Moore—but contains some striking though, incoherent, ideas and some beautiful phrases. There is this difference between Poe's work and that of young would-be

poets who have been mistaken for real poets. Theirs is simply rhymed prose—Poe's youthful work though crude, obscure, unripe, is poetry. This fact did not protect it from the darts of the critics, however.

The new booklet contained, in addition to "Al Aaraaf," "Tamerlane" (painstakenly rewritten), the earliest form of "Romance," printed as a preface and nine short poems—including "Fairyland" to which Neal had referred as "Heaven"—doubtless a tentative title given the manuscript poem sent to the editor of *The Yankee*.

This brief discussion of the publication of Poe's second collection of poems seems fitting because of the part it played in the relations between him and Mr. Allan—Poe's request of Mr. Allan's aid in publishing "Al Aaraaf;" Mr. Allan's refusal and "censure;" Poe's reply to Mr. Allan's request to see the poems; Mr. Allan's softening attitude toward Poe following Neal's notice in the September *Yankee* and, finally, evidence that Poe received and accepted the coveted invitation "home" after the almost simultaneous appearance of Neal's second notice of him and the book itself. The tradition that he went "home" to "Edgar's room" about Christmas and remained there until he left for West Point the following summer seems to be corroborated by the fact that the brief but important letter Number Twenty, November 18, 1829 is the last to Mr. Allan until that of June 28, 1830, written from West Point, and that the only letter preserved within this interim is that to Sergeant Graves, written from Richmond, May 3, 1830. It seems to be further corroborated by Letter Twenty-Two, written to "Dear Pa," on June 28—"the very first opportunity" after Poe's arrival at West Point—and the reference in Letter Twenty-Four to Mr. Allan's having accompanied him to the steam-boat when he left for West Point *via* Baltimore.

As late as 1875 Neal wrote to Judge Neilson Poe : "Edgar A. Poe was a wonderful man and he has never had justice done him." [1]

[1] Harrison, Vol. II, p. 436.

Courtesy of R. A. Lancaster, Jr.

HOME OF THE ALLANS AT MAIN AND FIFTH STREETS, RICHMOND, VIRGINIA

There was, in front, a lawn planted in shrubbery and a circular driveway, and at the rear a walled garden

LETTER NUMBER TWENTY

Balt^{o} Nov 18th 1829

Dear Pa,

I duly rec^{d} your letter enclosing a check for $80, for which I am truly thankful—This will be quite sufficient for all the expenditures you mention but I am afraid if I purchase a piece of linen of which I am much in want I shall have none left for pocket money—& if you could get me a piece or a $\frac{1}{2}$ piece at M^{r} Galt's & send it to me by the boat, I could get it made up gratis by my Aunt Maria—

The Poems will be printed by Hatch & Dunning of this city upon terms advantageous to me they printing it & giving me 250 copies of the book :— I will send it on by M^{r} Dunning who is going immediately to Richmond—

I am glad to hear that your trip to the Springs was of service in recruiting your health & spirits—

Give my love to Miss V.—

I remain Dear Pa,

Yours affectionately

Edgar A Poe

Edgar A. Poe
Nov 18th 1829

Mr. Jno Allan
Richmond
Va.

Balt.o Oct.r 18.th 1829

Dear Pa —

I duly rec.d your letter enclosing a check for $80. for which I am truly thankful. This will be quite sufficient for all the expenditures you mention but I am afraid if I purchase a piece of linen of which I am much in want I shall have none left for pocket money — if you could get me a piece or a ½ piece at Mr. Galt's & send it to me by the boat, I could get it made up gratis by my Aunt Maria —

The poems will be printed by Butler & Dunning of this city upon terms advantageous to me they printing it & giving me 250 copies of the book: — I will read it as by Dr Dunning who is going immediately to Richmond —

I am glad to hear that your trip to the Springs was of service in restoring your health & spirits —

Give my love to Miss V. —

I remain Dear Pa,
Yours affectionately
Edgar A. Poe

LETTER NUMBER TWENTY-ONE

EDGAR ALLAN POE, RICHMOND, MAY 3, 1830
TO SERGEANT SAMUEL GRAVES

COMMENT

Some persons who have seen this letter have assumed that Sergeant Graves (or "Bully") was Poe's substitute and that the debt alluded to was money due him for that service. This is evidently a mistake as the friendly tone of Poe's letter and his message of remembrance to Mrs. Graves and others show that "Bully" was not a stranger but a former associate in the regiment. He sends a message to Sergeant Griffith about money owed to him also. He could not have had two substitutes. And his promise to pay them both "with interest" and "my best thanks for your kindness", clearly indicates that the indebtedness to Sergeant Graves and Sergeant Griffith was for money borrowed while at Fortress Monroe. In Letter Eight from that place, February 4, 1829, he says: "Under certain expectation of kind news from home I have been led into expenses which my present income will not support." The letter of Mrs. Louisa Allan (second wife of John Allan) quoted in the Introduction, shows that she was under the erroneous impression that "Bully" Graves was Poe's substitute and it was evidently this letter to "Bully," which she describes as "too black to be credited if it had not contained the author's signature." It was enclosed sometime later to Mr. Allan, who (says Mrs. Allan) "sent the money to the man and banished Poe from his affections."

Poe, in the letter (Twenty-Four) to Mr. Allan from West Point, January 3, 1831, confesses authorship of the letter to "Bully" and in explanation says: "It was written a half hour after you had embittered every feeling of my heart against you by abuse of my family and myself, under your own roof—and at a time when you knew that my heart was almost breaking." And here we have proof of a quarrel during Poe's visit "home" between him and his foster-father, and its date—the same on which the letter to "Bully" was written.

LETTER NUMBER TWENTY-ONE

Richmond
May 3d 1830.

Dear Bully

I have just received your letter which is the first I have ever got from you—I suppose the reason of my not getting your other was that you directed to Washington —but I have not been there for some time—As to what you say about Downey Mr A very evidently misunderstood me, and I wish you to understand that I never sent any money by Downey whatsoever—Mr A is not very often sober—which accounts for it—I mentioned to him that I had seen Downey at Balto., as I did, & that I wished to send it on by him, but he did not intend going to the point—

I have tried to get the money for you from Mr A a dozen times—but he always shuffles me off—I have been very sorry that I have never had it in my power as yet to pay either you or St Griffith—but altho' appearances are very much against me, I think you know me sufficiently well to believe that I have no intention of keeping you out of your money—*the very first opportunity*, you shall have it (both of you) with interest & my best thanks for your kindness.—I told St Benton why I never had it in my power—He will explain it.

I suppose some of the officers told you that I am a

cadet—If you are—at any time, going to leave the point, write to W. Point and let me know your station. you need be under no uneasiness about your money.

Give my respects to the company to St Benton & wife & sister in law

I remain

Yrs truly

E A Poe

Edgar A Poe
to S Graves
3 May 1830

remember me to Mrs Graves—St Hooper & Charley—
Duke &c

Mr Samuel Graves
Old Point Comfort
Va

Dear Billy — Richmond

May 3d. 1830.

I have just received your letter which is the first I have ever got from you. I suppose the reason of my not getting your other was that you directed to Washington — but I have not been there for some time — As to what you say about Downey Mr. A very evidently misunderstood me and I wish you to understand that I never sent any money by Downey whatsoever — Mr. A is not very often sober — which accounts for it — I mentioned to him that I had seen Downey at Balto. as I did, & that I wished to send it on by him, but he did not intend going to the point. —

I have tried to get the money for you from Mr. C a dozen times — but he always shuffles me off — I have been very sorry that I have never had it in my power as yet to pay either you or S^t. Griffith — but altho' appearances are very much a-gainst me, I think you know me sufficiently well to believe that I have no intention of keeping you out of your money — the very first opportunity you shall have it (both of you) with interest & my best thanks for your kindness. — I told S^t. Benton why I never had it in my power — He will explain it.

I suppose some of the officers told you that I am a Cadet— If you are at any time going to leave the point, write to W. Point and let me know your station. you need be under no uneasiness about your money.

Give my respects to the company to Lt. Benton & wife & sister in Law.

Remain.

Yrs truly

E A Poe

remember me to Mrs Graves— Lt. Hooper & Charley— Duke &c

LETTER NUMBER TWENTY-TWO

EDGAR ALLAN POE, WEST POINT, JUNE 28, 1830
TO JOHN ALLAN

COMMENT

Poe matriculated at West Point on July 1, but this letter proves that he left Richmond prior to May 21 (probably soon after the quarrel of May 3) and made a visit to his Baltimore kin on his way; for he acknowledges receipt of a letter enclosing twenty dollars sent to that city and forwarded by his brother Henry to West Point, where it was permitted to lie "sometime" in the post office before being delivered to him. His allusion to having taken from Richmond "books etc.," which he considered his "own property," intimates that his departure was from "Edgar's Room," in the Allan home, furnished for him by his foster-mother.

The letter suggests cordial relations between him and Mr. Allan—who had not yet seen the letter to "Bully."

LETTER NUMBER TWENTY-TWO

West Point

June 28th

Dear Pa,

I take the very first opportunity which I have had since arriving here of acknowledging the receipt of your letter of the 21st May inclosing a U. S. note for $20 I received it 3 days ago—it has been lying some time in the W. P. post office where it was forwarded from Balt° by Henry. As to what you say about the books &c I have taken nothing except what I considered my own property.

Upon arriving here I delivered my letters of recommn & was very politely received by Capn Hitchcock & Mr Ross —The examination for admission is just over—a great many cadets of good family &c have been rejected as deficient. Among these was Peyton Giles son of the Governor—James D Brown, son of Jas Brown Jr has also been dismissed for deficiency after staying here 3 years. I find that I will possess many advantages—& shall endeavor to improve them. Of 130 cadets appointed every year only 30 or 35 ever graduate—the rest being dismissed for bad conduct or deficiency the Regulations are rigid in the extreme.

Please present my respects to M^r & M^rs Jas: Galt, Miss Valentine & Miss Carter.

I remain

respectfully & truly

Yours

Edgar A Poe

I will be much pleased if you will answer this letter. I am in camp at present—my tent mates are Read & Henderson (nephew of Major Eaton) & Stockton of Phil^a

Edgar A Poe
June 28th 1830
West Point

Mr. John Allan
Richmond
Va

West Point
June 28th.

Dear Pa,

I take the very first opportunity which I have had since arriving here of acknowledging the receipt of your letter of the 21st May inclosing a N. S. note for $20 I received it 3 days ago — it has been lying some time in the W. P. post office where it was forwarded from Balt.e by Henry. As to what you say about the books &c I have taken nothing except what I considered my own property.

Upon arriving here I delivered my letter of recommn: & was very politely received by Capt. Hitchcock & Mr. Ross. The examination for admission is just over — a great many cadets of good family &c have been rejected as deficient. Among these was Peyton Giles son of the Governor — James D Brown, son of Jas Brown Jr. has also been dismissed for deficiency after staying here 3 years. I find that I will possess many advantages & shall endeavor to improve them.

Of 130 cadets appointed every year only 30 or 35 ever graduate — the rest being dismissed for bad conduct or deficiency. The Regulations are rigid in the extreme.

Please present my respects to Mr. & Mrs Jas: Galt, Miss Valentine & Miss Carter.

I remain
respectfully & truly
Yours
Edgar A Poe.

I will be much pleased if you will answer this letter.

I am in camp at present - my tent mates are Read & Henderson (nephew of Major Eaton) & Stockton of Phil.ª

LETTER NUMBER TWENTY-THREE

EDGAR ALLAN POE, WEST POINT, NOVEMBER 6, 1830
TO JOHN ALLAN

COMMENT

This letter indicates that there had been no communication between Poe and Mr. Allan since June 28. Poe makes excuse for not having written oftener that he did not know the address of Mr. Allan—who spent part of the summer on his plantation "The Byrd," often visited the springs and had lately been in New York—as Poe had learned from Richmond friends who had visited West Point. There was another reason for the widower's silence. He had been courting that summer and had been married on October 5, and doubtless Poe's knowledge of this new interest in his father's life had something to do with the length of time between his own letters.

The tone of this letter is cordial and cheerful, though deep disappointment at his foster-father's coming so near as New York without seeing him suggests the homesickness to which Poe was made liable by his naturally affectionate and domestic disposition —later to find satisfaction in his life with his wife and her mother in their cottage homes at Spring Garden, then in the suburbs of Philadelphia, and Fordham, then in the suburbs of New York. Mr. Allan and his Galt cousins had been in New York on account of his marriage to his second wife.

LETTER NUMBER TWENTY-THREE

West Point

Novr 6th 1830

Dear Sir,

I would have written you long before but did not know where my letters would reach you. I was greatly in hopes you would have come on to W. Point while you were in N. York, and was very much disapointed when I heard you had gone on home without letting me hear from you. I have a very excellent standing in my class—in the first section in every thing and have great hopes of doing well.

I have spent my time very pleasantly hitherto—but the study requisite is incessant, and the discipline exceedingly rigid—I have seen Genl Scott here since I came, and he was very polite and attentive.

I am very much pleased with Colonel Thayer, and indeed with every thing at the institution.

If you would be so kind as to send me on a Box of Mathematical Instruments, and a copy of the Cambridge Mathematics, you would confer a great favor upon me and render my situation much more comfortable, or forward to Col: Thayer the means of obtaining them; for as I have no deposit, my more necessary expenditures have run me into debt.

Please give my repects to Mrs A and to Mr and Mrs Jas Galt and Miss V.

Mr Cunningham was also on here some time since, and Mr J. Chevalie and I was indeed very much in hopes that the beauty of the river would have tempted yourself and Mr and Mrs Jas Galt to have paid us a visit.

Yours affectionately

Edgar A Poe

Courtesy of the Edgar Allan Poe Shrine

UNITED STATES MILITARY ACADEMY AT WEST POINT

When Poe was a cadet. His third volume of poems published at the age of 22, in New York immediately after he left West Point, was dedicated to "The United States Corps of Cadets"

E A Poe
West Point
6 Nov 1830

Mr. John Allan
Richmond
Va.

West Point

Dear Sir, Nov 6th 1830

I would have written you long before but did not know where my letters would reach you. I was greatly in hopes you would have come on to W. Point while you were in N. York, and was very much disappointed when I heard you had gone on home without letting me hear from you. I have a very excellent standing in my class. in the first section in every thing, and some great hopes of doing well. I have spent my time very pleasantly hitherto, but the study requisite is incessant, and the discipline exceedingly rigid. I have seen Genl Scott here since I came, and he was very polite and attentive. I am very much pleased with Colonel Thayer, and indeed with every thing at the institution.

If you would be so kind as to send me on a Bot of Mathematical Instruments, and a copy of the

Cambridge Mathematics, you would confer a great favor upon me and render my situation much more comfortable, or [illegible] to [illegible] the means of obtaining them; for as I have no deposit, my more necessary expenditures have run me into debt.

Please give my respects to Mrs Ward, to Mr and Mrs Lat Galt and Miss V.

Mr Cunningham was also on here some time since, and Mr J. Chevalie and I was indeed very much in hopes that the beauty of the river would have tempted yourself and Mr and Mrs Gas Galt to have paid us a visit.

Yours affectionately

Edwin A Poe

LETTER NUMBER TWENTY-FOUR

EDGAR ALLAN POE, WEST POINT, JANUARY 3, 1831
TO JOHN ALLAN

COMMENT

It is easy to read between these lines that they are a reply to a letter from Mr. Allan after he had seen the letter to "Bully," and that the storm has burst—the most violent that has threatened to separate John Allan forever from the son of his adoption. Allan's letter was evidently one of bitter invective, including command for "no further communication." Poe's reply is an arraignment of his foster-father for all of the wrongs real or fancied or both, suffered at his hands. Deep in Allan's heart there was evidently a sense of paternal responsibility and tenderness for Poe of which it was difficult to rid himself—notwithstanding the bitterness which often consumed it temporarily—and in Poe's a feeling of affection and dependence which the storms of their clashing natures had been powerless to destroy. A clearing up and return to sunshiny confidence in "Pa," followed every outbreak. Memories in common of days when Edgar sat upon the austere Scotchman's knee and of the lovely presiding genius of their home in London and in Richmond made a bond which was easily strained but hard to break.

Now all is different. Edgar has been furnished with a new guardian in the Government whose service he has entered. A second spring has come to John Allan's life at its autumn season—a new bride is beside him. Old bonds are loosened. The letter to "Bully" turns his state of indifference toward Frances Allan's adopted son to one of rage, which, expressed on paper in a torrent of words, begets a like mood in Poe. The result is before us in the letter under discussion. Among other things, Edgar vows he will leave West Point—by resignation if he has his guardian's written permission, if not, by getting himself expelled. Cut off from his foster-father he seems to feel that he must get out into the world on his own resources. He does not stop to consider that he is no more than formerly trained to any bread-winning occupation, nor to take to heart the lesson which his little experiences in pub-

lishing should have taught him—that man cannot live by poetry alone.

In addition to the reason given for his wish to leave West Point it is likely that he was disappointed in finding that the life there gave him little leisure for magical dreams—for meditating upon, polishing and revising his published poems, or composing new ones. It will be remembered that in his letter of February 4, 1829 (Number Eight), referring to his experience as a private soldier, he had said: "Having already passed through the practical part, even the higher part of the artillery arm, my cadetship would only be considered as a necessary form which I am positive I could run through in six months." Scant spare time as the rigid military routine allowed him, however, his third little book bears witness to the quantity and quality of his creative work during the six months of his cadetship.

LETTER NUMBER TWENTY-FOUR

West Point, Janʸ 3ᵈ 1830.

Sir,

I suppose, (altho' you desire no further communication with yourself, on my part,) that your restriction does not extend to my answering your final letter.

Did I, when an infant, sollicit your charity and protection, or was it of your own free will, that you volunteered your services in my behalf? It is well known to respectable individuals in Baltimore, and elsewhere, that my Grandfather (my natural protector at the time you interposed) was weathy, and that I was his favourite grand-child—But the promises of adoption, and liberal education which you held forth to him in a letter which is now in possession of my family, induced him to resign all care of me into your hands. Under such circumstances, can it be said that I have no *right* to expect anything at your hands? You may probably urge that you have given me a liberal education. I will leave the decision of that question to those who know how far liberal educations can be obtained in 8 months at the University of Va. Here you will say that it was my own fault that I did not return—You would not let me return because bills were presented you for payment which I never wished nor desired you to pay. Had you let me return, my reformation had

been sure—as my conduct the last 3 months gave every reason to believe—and you would never have heard more of my extravagances. But I am not about to proclaim myself guilty of all that has been alledged against me, and which I have hitherto endured, simply because I was too proud to reply. I will boldly say that it was wholly and entirely your own mistaken parsimony that caused all the difficulties in which I was involved while at Charlottesville. The expenses of the institution at the lowest estimate were $350 per annum. You sent me there with $110. Of this $50 were to be paid immediately for board—$60 for attendance upon 2 professors—and you even then did not miss the opportunity of abusing me because I did not attend 3. Then $15 more were to be paid for room-rent—remember that all this was to be paid in *advance* with $110.—$12 more for a bed—and $12 more for room furniture. I had of course, the mortification of running in debt for public property—against the known rules of the institution, and was immediately regarded in the light of a beggar. You will remember that in a week after my arrival I wrote to you for some more money, and for books—You replied in terms of the utmost abuse—if I had been the vilest wretch on earth you could not have been more abusive than you were because I could not continue to pay $150 with $110.

I had enclosed to you in my letter (according to your

express commands) an account of the expenses incured amounting to $149—the balance to be paid was $39—you enclosed me $40, leaving me one dollar in pocket. In a short time afterwards I received a packet of books consisting of Gil Blas, and the Cambridge Mathematics in 2 vols: books for which I had no earthly use since I had no means of attending the mathematical lectures. But books must be had, if I intended to remain at the institution—and they were bought accordingly *upon credit*. In this manner debts were accumulated, and money borrowed of Jews in Charlottesville at extravagant interest—for I was obliged to hire a servant, to pay for wood, for washing, and a thousand other necessaries. It was then that I became dissolute, for how could it be otherwise? I could associate with no students, except those who were in a similar situation with myself—altho' from different causes—They from drunkenness, and extravagance—I, because it was my crime to have no one on Earth who cared for me, or loved me. I call God to witness that I have never loved dissipation—Those who know me know that my pursuits and habits are very far from anything of the kind. But I was drawn into it by my companions. Even their professions of friendship—hollow as they were—were a relief. Towards the close of the session you sent me $100—but it was too late—to be of any service in extricating me from my difficulties—I kept

it for some time—thinking that if I could obtain more I could yet retrieve my character—I applied to James Galt—but he, I believe, from the best of motives refused to lend me any—I then became desperate and gambled —until I finally involved myself irretrievably. If I have been to blame in all this—place yourself in my situation, and tell me if you would not have been equally so. But these circumstances were all unknown to my friends when I returned home—They knew that I had been extravagant—but that was all—I had no hope of returning to Charlottesville, and I waited in vain in expectation that you would, at least, obtain me some employment. I saw no prospect of this—and I could endure it no longer.—Every day threatened with a warrant &c. I left home—and after nearly 2 years conduct with which no fault could be found—in the army, as a common soldier—I *earned, myself*, by the most humiliating privations—a Cadet's warrant which you could have obtained at any time for asking. It was then that I thought I might venture to sollicit your assistance in giving me an outfit—I came home, you will remember, the night after the burial—If she had not have died while I was away there would have been nothing for me to regret—*Your* love I never valued—but she I believe loved me as her own child. You promised me to forgive all—but you soon forgot your promise. You sent me to W. Point like a beggar.

The same[1] difficulties are threatening me as before at Charlottesville—and I muſt resign.

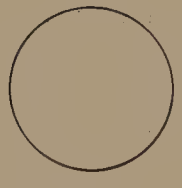
As to your injunction not to trouble you with further communication reſt assured, Sir, that I will moſt religiously observe it. When I parted from you—at the ſteam-boat, I knew that I should never see you again. As regards Sergt. Graves—I *did* write him that letter. As to the truth of its contents, I leave it to God, and your own conscience.—The time in which I wrote it was within a half hour after you had embittered every feeling of my heart againſt you by your abuse of my *family*, and myself, under your own roof—and at a time when you knew that my heart was almoſt breaking.

I have no more to say—except that my future life (which thank God will not endure long) muſt be passed in indigence and sickness—I have no energy left, nor health, If it was possible to put up with the fatigues of this place, and the inconveniences which my absolute want of necessaries subject me to, and as I mentioned before it is my intention to resign—For this end it will be necessary that you (as my nominal guardian) enclose me your written permission. It will be useless to refuse me this laſt requeſt—for I can leave the place without any permission—your refusal would only deprive me of the little pay which is now due as mileage.

[1] After the copy of this letter was made for the printed text a fragment of the original broke from the left side of the page. In repairing the damage this piece was placed by mistake on the right side of the page. The printed text is perfect copy of the letter before the accident.

Edgar A Poe
West Point
3 Jany 1830 (1831.)

25



Mr. John Allan
Richmond
Va:

I recd this on the 10th & did not from its conclusion deem it necessary to reply. I make this note on the 13th & can see no good Reason to alter my opinion. I do not think the Boy has one good quality. He may do or act as he pleases, tho' I wd have saved him but on his own terms & conditions since I cannot believe a word he writes. His letter is the most barefaced one sided statement.

From the time of writing this I shall neglect my studies and duties at the institution—if I do not receive your answer in 10 days—I will leave the point without—for otherwise I should subject myself to dismission.

E A Poe

West Point Jan: 3d 1831.

Sir

I suppose (altho' you desire no further communication with yourself on my part) that your restriction does not extend to my answering your final letter.

Did I, when an infant, solicit your charity and protection, or was it your own free will, that you volunteered your services in my behalf? It is well known to respectable individuals in Baltimore, and elsewhere, that my Grandfather (my natural protector at the time you interposed) was wealthy, and that I was his favourite grand-child — But the promises of adoption, and liberal education which you held forth to him in a letter which is now in possession of my family, induced him to resign all care of me into your hands. Under such circumstances, can it be said that I have no right to expect any thing at your hands? You may probably urge that you have given me a liberal education. I will leave the decision of that question to those who know how far liberal education can be obtained in 8 months at the University of Va. Here you will say that it was my own fault that I did not return — You would not let me return because bills were presented you for payment which I never wished nor desired you to pay. Had you let me return, my information had been such — as my conduct the last 3 months gave every reason to believe — and you would never have heard more of my extravagances. But I am not about to proclaim myself guilty of all that has been alledged against me, and which I have hitherto endured simply because I was too proud to reply. I will boldly say that it was wholly and entirely your own mis-taken parsimony that caused all the difficulties in which I was involved while at Charlottsville. The expenses of the institution at the lowest estimate were $350 per annum. You sent me there with $110. Of this $50 were to be paid immediately for board — $60 for attendance upon 2 professors — and you even then did not miss the opportunity of abusing me because I did not attend 3. Then $15 more were to be paid for room-rent. remember that all this was to be paid in advance, with $110. — $12 more for a bed — and $12 more for room furniture. I need of course, the mortification

of running in debt for public property – against the known rules of the institution, and was immediately regarded in the light of a beggar. You will remember that in a week after my arrival. I wrote to you for some more money, and for books – You replied in terms of the utmost abuse – if I had been the vilest wretch on earth you could not have been more abusive than you were because I could not continue to pay $150 with $110. I had enclosed to you in my letter (according to your express commands) an account of the expenses incurred amounting to $149 – the balance to be paid was $39 – You enclosed me $40, leaving me one dollar in pocket. In a short time afterwards I received a packet of books consisting of, Gil Blas, and the Cambridge Mathematics in 2 vols: books for which I had no earthly use since I had no means of attending the mathematical lectures. But books must be had, If I intended to remain at the institution – and they were bought accordingly upon credit. In this manner debts were accumulated, and money borrowed of Jews in Charlottesville at extravagant interest – for I was obliged to hire a servant, to pay for wood, for washing, and a thousand other necessaries. It was then that I became dissolute, for how could it be otherwise? I could associate with no students, except those who were in a similar situation with myself – altho' from different causes — They from drunkenness, and extravagance — I, because it was my crime to have no one on Earth who cared for me, or loved me. I call God to witness that I have never loved dissipation — Those who know me know that my pursuits and habits are very far from any thing of the kind. But I was drawn in to it by my companions. Even their professions of friendship – hollow as they were – were a relief. Towards the close of the session you sent me $100 – but it was too late – to be of any service in extricating me from my difficulties – I kept it for some time – thinking that if I could obtain more I could yet retrieve my character — I applied to James Galt – but he, I believe, from the best of motives refused to lend me any — I then became desperate, and gambled – until I finally involved myself irretrievably. If I have been to blame in all this – place yourself in my situation, and tell me if you would not have been

equally so. But these circumstances were all unknown to my friends when I returned home — They knew that I had been extravagant — but that was all — I had no hope of returning to Charlottesville, and I waited in vain in expectation that you would, at least, obtain me some employment. I saw no prospect of this — and I could endure it no longer. — Every day threatened with a warrant &c. I left home — and after nearly 2 years conduct with which no fault could be found — in the army, as a common soldier — I earned, myself, by the most humiliating privations — a Cadets warrant which you could have obtained at any time for asking. It was then that I thought I might venture to solicit your assistance in giving me an outfit — I came home, you will remember, the night after the burial — If she had not have died while I was away there would have been nothing for me to regret — your love I never valued — but she I believe loved me as her own child. you promised me to forgive all — but you soon [illegible] promises. you sent me to W. Point & forgot [illegible] difficulties are threatening me as before at the same [illegible] — and I must resign.

as to your injunction not to trouble you with further communication rest assured, Sir, that I will most religiously observe it. When I parted from you at the steam-boat, I knew that I should never see you again.

As regards Sergt. Graves — I did write him that letter. As to the truth of its contents, I leave it to God, and your own consciences. — The time in which I wrote it was within a half hour after you had embittered every feeling of my heart against you by your abuse of my family, and myself, under your own roof — and at a time when you knew that my heart was almost breaking.

I have no more to say — except that my future life (which thank God will not endure long) must be passed in indigence and sickness. I have no energy left, nor health, if it was possible to put up with the fatigues of this place, and the inconveniences which my absolute want of necessaries subject me to, and

as I mentioned before it is my intention to resign. For this end it will be necessary that you (as my nominal guardian) enclose me your written permission. It will be useless to refuse me this last request — for I can leave the place without any permission — your refusal would only deprive me of the little pay which is now due as mileage.

Edgar A Poe
West Point
3 Jany 1831

Mr John Allan
Richmond
Va

Dear Sir,

I write this to let you know that I did not from inclination choose it as necessary to reply to your letter of the 19th ult. I have always considered you as my friend & guardian (for such I have ever found you) & I have always been grateful for your kindness to me — I have determined to resign my situation in the Military Academy, & I trust that you will not refuse me your permission to do so — Your letter is the most cruel & unkind one I ever received from you — I am ignorant of having committed any offence which could merit your displeasure — I have endeavored to discharge my duties as a son & a student — I have been punished severely for the slightest neglect — I have been treated as a servant — I have been insulted before the whole corps of cadets — I have been struck by my superior officer in the presence of my fellow students — I have been refused the necessaries of life — I have been confined for days together in a cell — & all this because I refused to be treated like a dog — I have been guilty of no crime — I have been imprudent — I have been extravagant — I have been wild — but I have never been dishonest — I have never been a liar — I have never been ungrateful — I have never been revengeful — I have never been cruel — I have never been unkind to the unfortunate — I have never been selfish — I have never been malicious — I have never been deficient in the noble attributes of a gentleman — I have never been wanting in respect to my superiors — I have never been disobedient — I have never been neglectful of the rights of others — I have never been intemperate — I have never been quarrelsome — I have never been unforgiving — I have never been deficient in the common principles of honesty — I have never been dishonorable — I have never been false — I have never been unjust — I have never been unkind — I have never been unforgiving — I have never been deficient in the common principles of honesty — I have never been dishonorable — I have never been false — I have never been unjust — I have never been unkind —

From the time of writing this I shall neglect my studies and duties at the institution — if I do not receive your answer in 10 days — I will leave the point without — for otherwise I should subject myself to dismission.

Ed Poe

LETTER NUMBER TWENTY-FIVE

EDGAR ALLAN POE, NEW YORK, FEBRUARY 21, 1831
TO JOHN ALLAN

COMMENT

Determined to leave West Point, and not receiving Mr. Allan's permission to resign, Poe made good his threat to get himself expelled by neglect of roll calls, guard duty and parade, and disobeying orders of the officer of the day. At the Court Martial, in January, he plead guilty, and was sentenced to dismissal, with recommendation that this should take effect March 6, on which day, (according to Professor Woodberry, citing the records) he had twenty-four cents to his credit at the Academy. There were no charges of drinking or gambling, and at his examination at the close of the year he had stood (in a class of 87 cadets) 17th in Mathematics and 3rd in French.

The first act of his freedom was to arrange with Elam Bliss of New York to bring out his third book—a new edition of his poems. Before leaving West Point he had interested the cadets in its publication. They had been amused at his skits at the expense of the professors and (according to a letter written in 1884, to Professor George E. Woodberry,[1] by General Allan B. Magruder, who had been at West Point with Poe) a number of them subscribed for it—at seventy-five cents a copy, taken out of their pay. It contained revisions of "Tamerlane," "Al Aaraaf" and some of the smaller pieces of the two earlier booklets, with the notable additions of "To Helen," "Israfel," "The City in the Sea," "The Sleeper," and "Lenore." The small volume of 124 pages, entitled simply, "Poems. By Edgar A. Poe. Second Edition," was dedicated to the "United States Corps of Cadets," who—disappointed at its character—derided the work of their classmate. Woodberry—himself a poet—wrote nearly a century later: "Israfel" contains "the notes most clear and liquid and soaring of all he ever sang."

That Letter Twenty-Five brought no answer may be seen from the note on its reverse, in Mr. Allan's hand.

[1] Woodberry, Vol. I, p. 78.

Poe's distress of mind and body are indicated by this badly scrawled and blotted letter. Indeed his hand-writing as seen in the fac-similes is often an index to his emotions. It is never so big and bold as when—after his year's wait for the appointment to the Military Academy—he informs Sergeant Graves: "I am a cadet." Nor is his signature ever so proud and flamboyant as in that letter to "Bully." Something of the same exuberance is seen in the two earliest letters to his foster-father from West Point. But in the long, bitter Number Twenty-Four, answering Mr. Allan's renunciation of him, his writing shrinks and does not recover confidence again in this correspondence.

LETTER NUMBER TWENTY-FIVE

N. York Feb 21, 1831

Dear Sir,

In spite of all my resolutions to the contrary I am obliged once more to recur to you for assistance—It will however be the last time that I ever trouble any human being—I feel that I am on sick bed from which I never shall get up. I now make an appeal not to your affection because I have lost that but to your sense of justice—I wrote to you for permssion to resign—because it was *impossible* that I could stay—my *ear* has been too shocking for any description—I am wearing away every day—even if my last sickness had not completed it—I wrote to you as I say for permission to resign because without your permission no resignation can be received —My reason for doing so was that I should obtain my mileage amounting to $30.35—according to the rules of the institution. in my present circumstances a single dollar is of more importance to me than 10,000 are to you and you *deliberately* refused to answer my letter—I, as I told you, neglected my duty when I found it impossible to attend to it, and the consequences were inevitable—dismissal. I have been *dismissed* —when a single line from you would have saved it—The whole Academy have interested themselves in my behalf because my only crime was being *sick*. but it was of no use—I refer you to Col Thayer

to the public records, for my standing and reputation for talent—but it was all in vain, if you had granted me permission to resign—all might have been avoided—I have not strength nor energy left to write half what I feel—you one day or other will *feell* how you have treated me. I left W*** Point two days ago and travelling to N. York without a cloak or any other clothing of importance, I have caught a most violent cold and am confined to my bed. I have no money—no friends—I have written to my brother—but he cannot help me—I shall never rise from my bed—besides a most violent cold on my lungs my *ear* discharges blood and matter continually and my headache is distracting—I hardly know what I am writing —I will write no more—Please send me a little money —quickly—and forget what I said about you—

God bless you—

E A Poe

do not say a word to my sister.
I shall send to the P. O. every day.

Apl 12, 1833 it is now upwards of 2 years since I received the above precious relict of the Blackest Heart & deepest ingratitude alike destitute of honour & principle every day of his life has only served to confirm his debased nature—Suffice it to say my only regret is in Pity for his failings —his Talents are of an order that can never prove a comfort to their possessor

E A Poe
N York
21 Feby 1831

Mr. John Allan
Richmond
Va.

N. York Feb 21. 183[illegible]

Dear Sir

In spite of all my resolution to the contrary I am obliged once more to recur to you for assistance - It will however be the last time that I ever trouble any human being - I feel that I am on sick bed from which I never shall get up. I now make an appeal not to your affection because I have lost that but to your sense of justice - I wrote to you for permission to resign — because it was impossible that I could stay - my ear has been so shocking for any description - I am wearing away every day - even if my last sickness had not completed it. I wrote to you as I say for permission to resign because without your permission no resignation can be received - My reason for doing so was that I should obtain my mileage amounting to $30,35 - according to the rules of the institution - in my present circumstances a single dollar is of more importance to me than 10,000 are to you and you deliberately refused to answer my letter - I as I told you neglected my duty when I found it impossible to attend to it - and

the consequences were inevitable — dismissal.
I have been dismissed — when a single line from
you would have saved it — The whole aca-
-demy have interested themselves in my behalf
because my only crime was being sick. but
it was of no use — I refer you to Col Thayer
& the public records, for my standing and repu-
-tation for talent — but it was all in vain
if you had granted me permission to resign — all
might have been avoided — I have not strength nor
energy left to write half what I feel — you
one day or other will feel how you have
treated me. I left [redacted] Point two days ago
and travelling to N. York without a cloak or any
other clothing of importance. I have caught a
most violent cold and am confined to my bed
I have no money — no friends — I have
written to my brother — but he cannot
help me — I shall never rise from my
bed — besides a most violent cold on my lungs
my ear discharges blood and matter continually
and my head ache is distracting — I hardly
know what I am writing — I will

write no more — Please send me a little money — quickly — and forget what I said about you —

God bless you —

E A Poe

do not say a word to my sister.

I shall call to the P. O. every day.

apl 12. 1833 it is now upwards of 2 years since I received the above precious relict of the Blackest Heart & deepest ingratitude alike destitute of honour & principle every day of his life has only served to confirm his debased nature — suffice it to say my only regret is on Rik's for his failings — his Talents are of an order that can never prove a Comfort to their possessor

LETTER NUMBER TWENTY-SIX

EDGAR ALLAN POE, BALTIMORE, OCTOBER 16, 1831
TO JOHN ALLAN

COMMENT

Letter Twenty-Five, (of February 21) shows that Poe left West Point for New York on February 19. That he was there as late as March 10, and desperate for a means of keeping body and soul together, is proved by the following letter to Colonel Thayer, Superintendent of the Military Academy:

"New York, March 10, 1831.

"Sir:—Having no longer any ties which can bind me to my native country—no prospects—nor any friends—I intend by the first opportunity to proceed to Paris with the view of obtaining thro' the interest of the Marquis de La Fayette an appointment (if possible) in the Polish Army.

In the event of the interference of France in behalf of Poland this may easily be effected—at all events it will be my only feasible plan of procedure.

The object of this letter is respectfully to request that you will give me such assistance as may lie in your power in furtherance of my views.

A certificate of 'standing' in my class is all I have any right to expect.

Anything farther—a letter to a friend in Paris—or to the Marquis—would be a kindness which I should never forget.

Most respectfully, Yr. obt. s't. Edgar A. Poe."[1]

The next documentary information of Poe shows him in Baltimore looking for work. In a letter of May 6, 1831 to William Gwynn, (an editor in whose office his cousin, Neilson Poe, had lately held a position) he hopes that Mr. Gwynn "might be so kind as to employ him in some capacity." Failing in this he sought (also unsuccessfully) a place as assistant teacher in a school lately opened by Dr. N. C. Brooks at Reisterstown, near Baltimore.

[1] This letter first appeared in the *New York Sun*, Oct. 30, 1902. It is printed in full in Harrison's Life and Letters of Poe, Vol. II, 449, and in Woodberry, Vol. I, 79, 80.

Letter Number Twenty-Six and the letters which follow explode the tradition and correct the statements of biographers of an allowance from Mr. Allan. This letter of retrospection and introspection, homesickness and heartsickness, proves that though "wretchedly poor," Poe was picking up some kind of living in Baltimore, but just what his work was will probably never be known.

Reference to Nielson Poe suggests the question, why was it that Poe's Baltimore relatives, with the exception of his indigent widowed aunt, Mrs. Clemm, seem to have taken so little interest in him? For answer, memory goes back to the letter of violent abuse of him written when he was fifteen years old to his brother Henry, by Mr. Allan.[2] Could the unlovely picture of Edgar given in that letter have prejudiced his family against him to such extent that they washed their hands of him at once and forever? Who knows?

[2] Introduction to Campbell's edition of the Poems of Edgar Allan Poe, XIV.

LETTER NUMBER TWENTY-SIX

Baltimore

Octo: 16th 1831.

Dear Sir,

It is a long time since I have written to you unless with an application for money or assistance. I am sorry that it is so seldom that I hear from you or even *of* you—for all communication seems to be at an end; and when I think of the long twenty one years that I have called you father, and you have called me son, I could cry like a child to think that it should all end in this. You know me too well to think me interested—if so: why have I rejected your thousand offers of love and kindness? It is true that when I have been in great extremity, I have always applied to you—for I had no other friend, but it is only at such a time as the present when I can write to you with the consciousness of making no application for assistance, that I dare to open my heart, or speak one word of old affection. When I look back upon the past and think of every thing—of how much you tried to do for me—of your forbearance and your generosity, in spite of the most flagrant ingratitude on my part, I can not help thinking ~~you~~ myself the greatest fool in existence,—I am ready to curse the day when I was born. But I am fully—truly conscious that all these better feelings have *come too late*—

I am not the damned villain even to ask you to restore me to the twentieth part of those affections which I have so deservedly lost, and I am resigned to whatever fate is allotted me.

I write merely because I am by myself and have been thinking over old times, and my only friends, until my heart is full—

At such a time the conversation of new acquaintance is like ice, and I prefer writing to you altho' I know that you care nothing about me, and perhaps will not even read my letter.

I have nothing more to say—and *this time*, no favour to ask—Altho I am wretchedly poor, I have managed to get clear of the difficulty I spoke of in my last, and am *out of debt*, at any rate.

May God bless you—

E A P.

Will you not write one word to me?

E A Poe
Baltimore
16 Oct 1831

Mr. John Allan
Richmond
Va

Wm Galt

Baltimore
Octo: 16th 1821.

Dear Sir

It is a long time since I have written to you unless with an application for money or assistance. I am sorry that it is so — even that I hear from you or even of you — for all communication seems to be at an end: and when I think of the time when you called me your "dear Sir" and you even called me son, I could even dare a child to think that it should all end in this. You know me too well to think me interested — if so: why have I rejected your thousand offers of love and kindness? It is true that when I have been in great straits, I have always applied to you — for I had no other friend: but it is only at such a time as the present when I can write to you with the consciousness of making no application for assistance, that I dare to open my heart, or speak one word of old affection: When I look back upon the past and think of every thing — of how much you tried to do for me — of your forbearance and your generosity, in spite of the most flagrant ingratitude on my part, I can not help thinking ~~you~~ myself the greatest fool in

existence, I am ready to curse the day when I was born -

But I am fully - truly conscious that all these better feelings have come too late -

I am not the damned villain even to ask you to restore me to the twentieth part of those affections which I have so deservedly lost, and I am resigned to whatever fate is allotted me.

I write merely because I am by myself and have been thinking over old times and my only friends, until my heart is full - At such a time the conversation of new acquaintance is like ice, and I prefer writing to you altho' I know that you care nothing about me, and perhaps will not even read my letter.

I have nothing more to say - and this time, no favour to ask - Altho' I am wretchedly poor, I have managed to get clear of the difficulty I spoke of in my last; and am out of debt at any rate.

May God bless you -

E. A. P.

Will you not write one word to me?

LETTER NUMBER TWENTY-SEVEN

EDGAR ALLAN POE, BALTIMORE, NOVEMBER 18, 1831
TO JOHN ALLAN

LETTER NUMBER TWENTY-EIGHT

MRS. CLEMM, BALTIMORE, DECEMBER 5, 1831
TO JOHN ALLAN

LETTER NUMBER TWENTY-NINE

EDGAR ALLAN POE, BALTIMORE, DECEMBER 15, 1831
TO JOHN ALLAN

LETTER NUMBER THIRTY

EDGAR ALLAN POE, BALTIMORE, DECEMBER 29, 1831
TO JOHN ALLAN

COMMENT

The twenty-six letters which have been read and discussed—with the material which it has been possible to combine with them—throw much new light upon Poe's story, correct many erroneous traditions and clear up some mysteries. The four letters now to be considered offer a new mystery not touched upon in the biographies because the fact of its existence was locked up in this unpublished correspondence with his foster-father. The few persons who have learned of it from the manuscript letters have concluded that Poe's arrest for a debt "incurred as much on Henry's [1] account" as on his own, two years before, meant that he was in jail, or expecting a jail sentence. Mr. Allan came to the same conclusion (see his use of the word "liberation" in note on reverse of Letter Twenty-Nine), but Dr. J. Hall Pleasants, of Baltimore has recently most kindly, made for the editor, a thorough search of the records of all Baltimore courts which might have contained proceedings against Poe for debt for the years 1831 and 1832, and also the full records of imprisonment for debt and those in regard to insolvent debtors. He has found many such imprisonments—a large percentage of them for amounts of less than ten dollars—but no mention of Poe.

Poe's debt was for "$80." He writes Letter Twenty-Seven on November 18, which, in 1831, fell on Thursday. The natural inference is that payment by the following Wednesday would keep him out of jail—though neither the word jail nor prison is mentioned in any of the letters—but his request may mean that he was penniless, with a jail sentence threatening him unless he could raise the amount of his indebtedness. See (Letter Twenty-Four) his reference to his discomfort after his return from the University—"Every day threatened with a warrant, etc."

Notwithstanding what seemed to be the final break between

[1] Henry (according to tradition) a wild youth, more brilliant than Edgar, handsome, charming, but delicate, had died in July. He was a naval cadet.

Poe and his foster-father, upon his leaving West Point, it will be noted that Letter Twenty-Seven begins "My dear Pa," and ends "Yours affectionately," and the words "your late kindness" imply that Mr. Allan had aided him recently—though there is no other record of this.

Seventeen days later (Letter Twenty-Eight), Poe's signal of distress having received no answer, his aunt Mrs. Clemm, at whose modest home he is believed to have been living, writes Mr. Allan in his behalf. She has "procured $20" for Edgar but it is "insufficient to extricate him." (She does not say to liberate him from jail or prison) and she implores Mr. Allan to "*assist* him"—not to *release* him. In their distress, both she and Poe made their letters as strong as possible and if he had been in prison it seems certain that they would have said so.

Ten days later still—December 15—Poe pleads his own cause once more (Letter Twenty-Nine) in words of such acute agony that their reader of well nigh a century since the ink with which they were written was dry feels something of the shame which should overtake an eavesdropper—something of the horror of beholding tortured human flesh—the terror of watching the writhings of a suffering human soul. Want has brought the beautiful, gifted, accomplished youth to his knees in the dust. One of his chief characteristics had been pride, but he writes: "If you wish me to humble myself before you, I am humble. Sickness and misfortune have left me not a shadow of pride." He still begins his letters, "Dear Pa" and closes them "Yours affectionately," and he pleads, "For the sake of all that was formerly dear to you." It will be noted that his allusions to Mrs. Allan during her lifetime were to "Ma," but always after her death they were veiled, as though any name for her were too sacred to be used. In Letter Twenty-Four for instance: "If *she* had not died while I was away there would have been nothing for me to regret," and "*She*, I believe, loved me as her own child."

Still receiving no answer, Poe made another appeal to Mr. Allan two weeks later—Letter Thirty. Christmas has come and

gone. The brief letter toward the end of Christmas week, begins "Dear Sir" and closes simply, "E. A. Poe," but the appeal is, "For the sake of what once was dear to you, for the sake of the love you bore me when I sat upon your knee and called you father."

Though Poe's cries of desperation make no mention of a prison, Mr. Allan, knowing the custom of the time, took imprisonment for granted. Upon the reverse of Letter Twenty-Nine these words appear in his hand. "Wrote on the 7th Decr. 1831 to John Walsh to procure his liberation & to give him $20 besides to keep him out of further difficulties & value on me for such amt. as might be required—neglected it on till the 12th Jany. 1832 when put in the office myself."

It will be seen that the letter to John Walsh was written two days after Mrs. Clemm's letter of December 5, eight days before the second letter from Edgar and twenty-two days before the third letter from him, yet for some reason known only to its writer the letter of rescue lay in his desk four weeks before he mailed it.

What had happened to Poe in the meantime? Nobody knows. When the letter at last reached Walsh and he sought to carry out its instructions, was Poe to be found to receive the aid it brought? Would he have waited through those days of increasing anguish for help, approach of which he saw no sign? Had friends or relatives aroused themselves to raise the money he needed? Did he hire himself out as a sailor on some vessel bound for foreign parts, as in an earlier emergency he had enlisted as a soldier? Did he find journalistic or other work by which to earn the money? One fact has come to light in recent years which may contain a possibility. During the year 1832 five of his "Tales"—the first of his prose work to be published—appeared in the Philadelphia *Saturday Courier*.[1] They had been submitted for a prize competition before the end of 1831. Had they been paid for on acceptance or, if not, did Poe apprise the editor of *The Courier* of his pressing

[1] Introduction to Campbell's edition of *The Poems of Edgar Allan Poe*, XIX.

need and ask for an advance, as he did of Carey & Lea in consideration of manuscripts which that firm accepted two years later? And had he received enough money from these stories to pay his debt and relieve him from the agonizing prospect of going to prison?

There is this to be said. Formerly whenever he received aid from "home" there is some expression of gratitude. In the yellowed letters before us there is no word of thanks for the amount for which John Walsh was authorized to draw on Mr. Allan. There is one more letter to his foster-father—written from Baltimore—but it is fifteen months later. Where had Poe been during all these months? There is much tradition but no documentary evidence. He seems to have dropped over the rim of the world.

Whatever the answer to the puzzle may be it is only fair to Poe to say that none of the traditions concerning this blank space in his history suggest a life of dissipation.

LETTER NUMBER TWENTY-SEVEN

Balt:

Nov^{r}: 18. 1831,

My dear Pa,

I am in the greatest distress and have no other friend on earth to apply to except yourself if you refuse to help me I know not what I shall do. I was arrested eleven days ago for a debt which I never expected to have to pay, and which was incurred as much on Hy's account as on my own about two years ago.

I would rather have done anything on earth than apply to you again after your late kindness—but indeed I have no other resource, and I am in bad health and unable to undergo as much hardships as formerly or I never would have asked you to give me another cent.

If you will only send me this one time $80, by Wednesday next, I will never forget your kindness and generosity.—if you refuse God only knows what I shall do, & all my hopes & prospects are ruined forever—

Yours affectionately

E A Poe

I have made every exertion but in vain

John Allan Esq[r]
Richmond
Va

Balt.
Nov.r 18. 1831.

My Dear Pa.

I am in the greatest distress and have no other friend on earth to apply to except yourself if you refuse to help me I know not what I shall do. I was arrested eleven days ago for a debt which I never expected to have to pay, and which was incurred as much on Hy.'s account as on my own about two years ago.

I would rather have done any thing on earth than apply to you again after your late kindness — but indeed I have no other resource, and I am in bad health and unable to undergo as much hardship as formerly or I never would have asked you to give me another cent.

If you will only send me this one time I so, by Wednesday next, I will never forget your kindness & generosity. — if you refuse God only knows what I shall do, & all my hopes & prospects are ruined forever — Yours affectionately

E. A. Poe

I have made every exertion but in vain.

LETTER NUMBER TWENTY-EIGHT

Balt. Dec, 5 1831

Dear Sir

As I am extremely distressed at Edgar's situation I take the liberty of writing to you once more in his behalf—We have made every exertion for his relief—but our circumstances are too poor to afford him any—I have with great difficulty procured $20 which I will reserve for him, with all my heart—but it is insufficient to extricate him—I beg that you will assist him out of this difficulty and I am sure that it will be a warning for him as long as he lives—to involve himself no further in debt —I am satisfied that except in this instance he does not owe one cent in the world, and would do well if you would relieve him—he is extremely distressed at your refusal to assist him—and has no other resource whatever —as not being a resident of this city he cannot take the benefit of the insolvent laws—I feel deeply interested in him, for he has been extremely kind to me as far as his opportunities would permit—I should consider it as one of the greatest obligations to myself and family if you will be so generous as to assist him for this time only—

I remain

respectfully

Mrs Wm Clemm

Mrs. Wm Clemm
Dec 5th 1831

Mr John Allan
Richmond
Va

Dear Sir

Balt. Dec. 5 1831

As I am extremely distressed at Edgars situation I take the liberty of writing to you once more in his behalf - We have made every exertion for his relief - but our circumstances are too poor to afford him any - I have with great difficulty procured $20 which I will reserve for him with all my heart - but it is insufficient to extricate him - I beg that you will assist him out of this difficulty and I am sure that it will be a warning for him as long as he lives - to involve himself no further in debt - I am satisfied that except in this instance he does not owe an cent in the world, and would do well if you would relieve him - he is extremely distressed at your refusal to assist him - and has no other resource whatever - as not being a resident of this city he cannot take the benefit of the insolvent laws - I feel deeply interested in him, for he has been extremely kind to me as far as his opportunities would permit - I should consider it as one of the greatest obligations to myself and family if you will be so generous as to assist him for this time only -

I remain

respectfully

Mrs Wm Clemm

LETTER NUMBER TWENTY-NINE

Balt. Dec. 15th, 1831.

Dear Pa,

I am sure you could not refuse to assist me if you were well aware of the distress I am in. How often you have relieved the distress of a perfect stranger in circumstances less urgent than mine. and yet when I beg and intreat you in the name of God to send me succour you will still refuse to aid me. I know that I have offended you past all forgiveness, and I know that I have no longer any hopes of being again received into your favour, but for the sake of Christ. do not let me perish for a sum of money which you would never miss, and which would relieve me from the greatest earthly misery—especially as I promise by all that is sacred that I will never under any circumstances apply to you again. Oh! if you knew at this moment how wretched I am you would never forgive yourself for having refused me. You are enjoying yourself in all the blessings that wealth & happiness can bestow, and I am suffering every extremity of want and misery without even a chance of escape, or a friend to whom I can look up to for assistance.

Think for one moment, and if your nature and former heart are not altogether changed you will no longer refuse me your assistance, if not for my sake for the sake of humanity. I know you have never turned a

beggar from your door, and I apply to you in that light *I beg* you for a little aid, and for the sake of all that was formerly dear to you, I trust that you will relieve me.

If you wish me to humble myself before you I am humble—Sickness and misfortune have left me not a shadow of pride,. I own that I am miserable and unworthy of your notice, but do not leave me to perish without leaving me still one resource. I feel at the very bottom of my heart that if you were in my situation and you in mine, how differently I would act.

Yours affect^y^

E A P.

[endorsement by John Allan]

Wrote on the 7^th^ Dec^r^ 1831 to John Walsh to procure his liberation & to give him $20 besides to keep him out of further difficulties & value on me for such am^t^ as might be required—neglected sending it on till the 12^th^ Jan^y^ 1832 Then put in the office myself

E A Poe
Baltimore
15 Dec. 1831

Mr. John Allan
Richmond
Va

Brit. Dec. 15th 1831

Dear Sir

I am sure you could not refuse to assist me if you were well aware of the distress I am in. How often have you relieved the distresses of a perfect stranger in circumstances less urgent than mine. and yet when I ask and intreat you in the name of God to send me succour you will still refuse to aid me. I know that I have offended you past all forgiveness, and I know that I have no longer any hopes of being again received into your favour, but for the sake of Christ do not let me perish for a sum of money which you would never miss, and which would relieve me from the greatest earthly misery — especially as I promise by all that is sacred that I will never ask ei any circumstances after to you again. Oh if you knew at this moment how wretched I am you would never forgive yourself for having refused me. You are enjoying yourself in all the blessings that wealth & happiness can bestow, and I am suffering every extremity of want and misery without even a chance of escape, or a friend to whom I can look up to for assistance. Think for one moment, and if your nature and former heart are not altogether changed you

will no longer refuse me your assistance if not for my sake for the sake of humanity. I know you have never turned a beggar from your door, and I apply to you in that light I beg you for a little aid, and for the sake of all that was formerly dear to you I trust that you will relieve me.

If you wish me to humble myself before you I am humble - Sickness and misfortune have left me not a shadow of pride. I own that I am miserable and unworthy of your notice, but do not leave me to perish without leaving me still one resource. I feel at the very bottom of my heart that if you were in my situation and you in mine, how differently I would act

Yours affec.

E A P.

Wrote on the 4th Dec. 1831 to John Neal to procure his liberation & to give him $20 besides to keep him out of the difficulties I involved him in for such sum as might be required - replied to on August 1st the 12th Jan. 1832 Then put in the Type & engraved

LETTER NUMBER THIRTY

Baltimore

Dec: 29th 1831

Dear Sir

Nothing but extreme misery and distress would make me venture to intrude myself again upon your notice—If you knew how wretched I am I am sure that you would relieve me—No person in the world I am sure, could have undergone more wretchedness than I have done for some time past—and I have indeed no friend to look to but yourself—and no chance of extricating myself without your assistance. I know that I have no claim upon your generosity—and that what little share I had of your affection is long since forfeited, but, for the sake of what once was dear to you, for the sake of the love you bore me when I sat upon your knee and called you father do not forsake me this only time—and god will remember you accordingly—

E A Poe

Ed A Poe
Dec 29 1831
Baltimore

John Allan Esq^r^
Richmond
Va

Baltimore
Dec: 29th 1831

Dear Sir

Nothing but extreme misery and distress would make me venture to intrude myself again upon your notice - If you knew how wretched I am I am sure that you would relieve me - No person in the world I am sure, could have undergone more wretchedness than I have done for some time past - and I have wished no friend to look to but yourself - and no chance of extricating myself without your assistance - I know that I have no claim upon your generosity - and that what little share I had of your affection is long since forfeited but, for the sake of what once was dear to you, for the sake of the love you bore me when I sat upon your knee and called you father do not forsake me this only time - and god will remember you accordingly -

Edgar A Poe

LETTER NUMBER THIRTY-ONE

EDGAR ALLAN POE, BALTIMORE, APRIL 12, 1833
TO JOHN ALLAN

COMMENT

This brief note without beginning or ending save the signature, "E. A. Poe," is a cry in the dark—a signal of distress revealing Poe still (or again) destitute and on the brink of despair. There is no record of a reply or of any further communication between him and John Allan who died less than a year later—March 27, 1834. Aid from Mr. Allan alluded to in Poe's statement: "It has now been more than two years since you have assisted me," doubtless means the "late kindness," referred to in Letter Number Twenty-Seven. His declaration in Letter Thirty-One; "I am not idle," was to have corroboration of an interesting kind. Six months after this final letter to Mr. Allan was written relief came to Poe as the result of his own industry. All the World knows how *The Baltimore Saturday Visiter*, a weekly literary paper, announced a prize contest offering fifty dollars for the best story and twenty-five dollars for the best poem; that Poe had, all ready to submit, six exquisitely penned short stories, neatly bound, entitled, "Tales of the Folio Club;" that he offered the whole manuscript volume of stories and his poem, "The Coliseum." And all the world knows the result. Edgar Poe received his first fifty dollar check for the work of his brain, for his story, "The Manuscript Found A Bottle," and would have received twenty-five dollars for the poem, but the committee would not award both prizes to the same person. More valuable than the prize did the friendship of the judges in the contest, which his work won for him, prove to be—especially that of John P. Kennedy to whom he owed, among other favours, his appearance first as a contributor to, and later as editor of *The Southern Literary Messenger*. Mr. Kennedy became a veritable good angel to Poe, whose talent and personality impressed him and whose destitute condition deeply touched him. He confided to his Diary: "I found him in Baltimore in a state of starvation. I gave him clothing, free access to my table, and the use of a horse for exercise whenever he chose; in fact, brought him up from the verge of despair."

So long as Poe lived he let pass no opportunity of expressing gratitude to this "friend indeed," but he also repaid him in the coin with which he unconsciously rewarded others who were kind to him. Mr. Kennedy was not only a gracious gentleman, but was himself an admirable writer. Few persons are familiar with his "Swallow Barn" and his other pleasant works today, but everybody knows how he brought Edgar Poe up "from the verge of despair" and gave him a real start on his literary career. Thus, he was one of the many upon whom Poe bestowed immortality.

LETTER NUMBER THIRTY-ONE

Baltimore April 12th 1833

It has now been more than two years since you have assisted me, and more than three since you have spoken to me. I feel little hope that you will pay any regard to this letter, but still I cannot refrain from making one more attempt to interest you in my behalf. If you will only consider in what a situation I am placed you will surely pity me—without friends, without any means, consequently of obtaining employment, I am perishing —absolutely perishing for want of aid. And yet I am not idle—nor addicted to any vice—nor have I committed any offence against society which would render me deserving of so hard a fate. For God's sake pity me, and save me from destruction.

E A Poe

E. A. Poe
Baltimore
12th Apl 1833

John Allan Esqr
Richmond
Va.

Baltimore April 12th 1833

It has now been more than two years since you have assisted me, and more than three since you have spoken to me. I feel little hope that you will pay any regard to this letter, but still I cannot refrain from making one more attempt to interest you in my behalf. If you will only consider in what a situation I am placed you will surely pity me. Without friends, without any means, consequently of obtaining employment, I am perishing — absolutely perishing for want of aid. And yet I am not idle — nor addicted to any vice — nor have I committed any offence against society which would render me deserving of so hard a fate. For Gods sake pity me, and save me from destruction.

E A Poe

BILLS FOR EDGAR ALLAN POE AT MANOR HOUSE SCHOOL

REFERRED TO IN THE INTRODUCTION

BILL FOR EDGAR ALLAN POE AT MANOR HOUSE SCHOOL

Manor House School
Stoke Newington, Xmas. 1818

J. Allan Esq^{r}
for Mas^{r} Allan

To the Rev^{d} John Bransby.

	£	S	D
Board & Education	23.	12.	6.
Washing £1:11:6 Single Bed £2: 2: 0	3	13	6
Allowance £0: 5: 0 Pew & Char^{y} Sermon £0: 3: 6	—	8	6
Books, Stationary &c	—	14	11
French	—	—	—
Dancing £2: 2: 0 Drawing £ Music £	2	2	—
Shoemaker £1: 15: 6 Taylor £ Hairdresser £0: 2: 0	1	17	6
Sundries	—	1	—
Apothecary	0	13	0
Please to pay to Mess^{rs} Sikes Snaith & Co. Mansion House S^{t}	£33.	2.	11

The vacation will terminate Jany. 25th 1819.

BILL FOR EDGAR ALLAN POE AT MANOR HOUSE SCHOOL

Manor House School
Stoke Newington, 25th Mas. 1818

J. Allan Esqr
for Masr Allan

To the Revd John Bransby

	£	s	d
Board & Education	23	12	6
Washing £1:11:6 Single Bed £2:2:0	3	13	6
Allowance £0:5:0 Pew & Char. Sermon £0:3:6	—	8	6
Books Stationary &c	—	14	11
French	—	—	—
Dancing £2:2:0 Drawing £ Music £	2	2	—
Shoemaker £1:15:6 Taylor £ Hairdresser £0:2:0	1	17	6
Sundries	—	1	—
Apothecary	0	13	0
Please to pay to Messrs Sikes Smith & Co. Mansion House St.	£33	2	11

The vacation will terminate Jan.y 25th 1819.

BILL FOR EDGAR ALLAN POE AT MANOR HOUSE SCHOOL

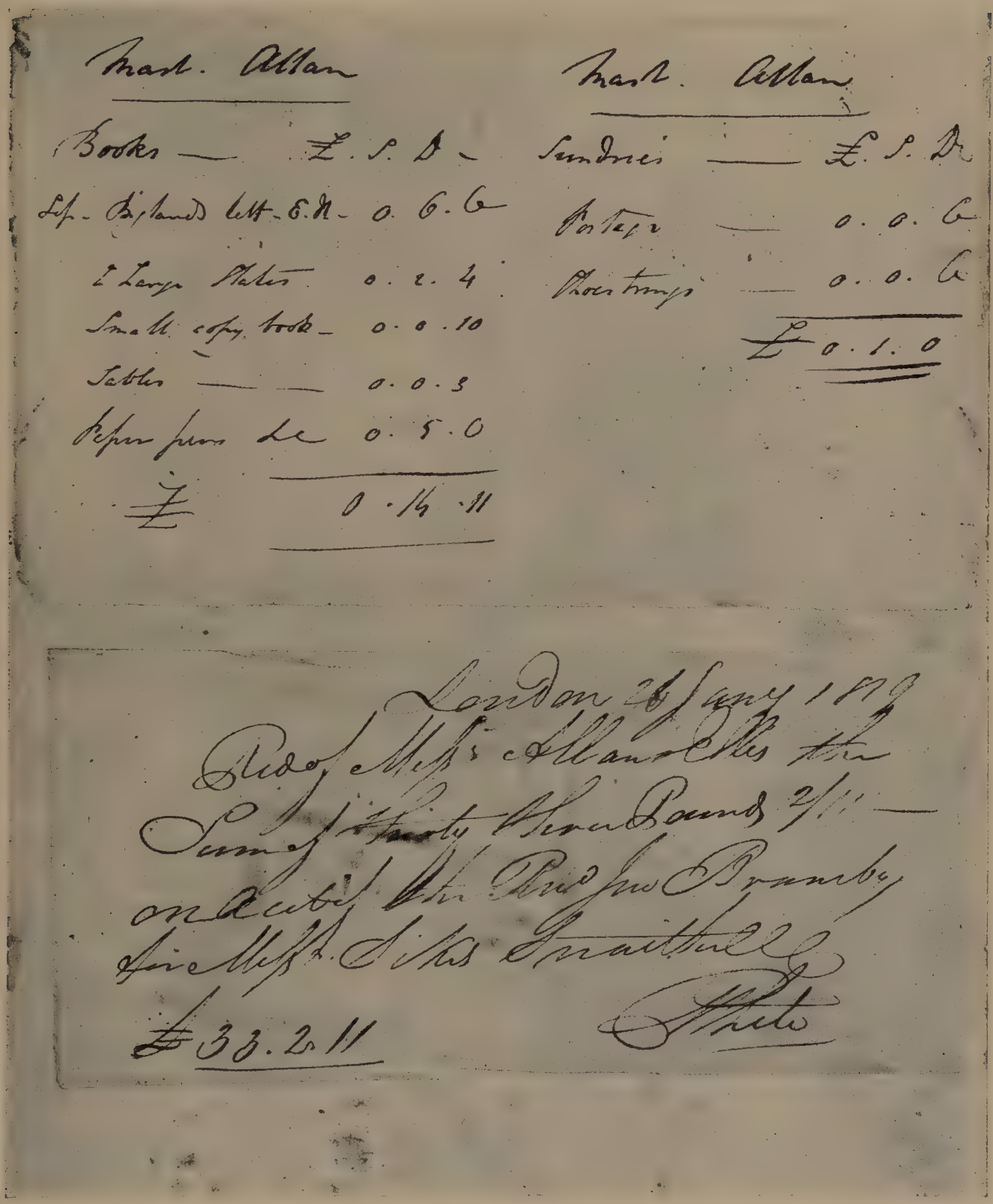
Mast. Allan				Mast. Allan			
Books.....	£	s	d	Sundries	£	s	d
Sep—Biglands				Postage	o.	o.	6
test—E. N.	o.	6.	6	Shoestrings	o.	o.	6
2 Large Slates	o.	2.	4		£o.	1.	o
Small copy book	o.	o.	10				
Tables.....	o.	o.	3				
Paper pens &c	o.	5.	o				
	£o.	14.	11				

London 26 Jany 1819

Red of Mess's Allan & Ellis the
Sum of Thirty Three Pounds 2/11—
on Acct of the Revd Jno Bransby
for Messrs Sikes Snaith & Co

£33. 2. 11 P. White

BILL FOR EDGAR ALLAN POE AT MANOR HOUSE SCHOOL



Mast. Allan

Books —	£.	s.	d.
Lat. Dict. and Gr.	0.	6.	6
2 Large Slates	0.	2.	4
Small copy book	0.	0.	10
Tables — —	0.	0.	3
Repairing do	0.	5.	0
£	0.	14.	11

Mast. Allan

Sundries —	£.	s.	d.
Postage	0.	0.	6
Pocket money	0.	0.	6
£	0.	1.	0

London 26 Jany 1819

Rec.d of Mrs Allan the
Sum of Forty three Pounds 2/11 —
on Acct of the Revd Jno Bransby
for Mast. Edgr Allan

£33. 2. 11

BILL FOR EDGAR ALLAN POE AT MANOR HOUSE SCHOOL

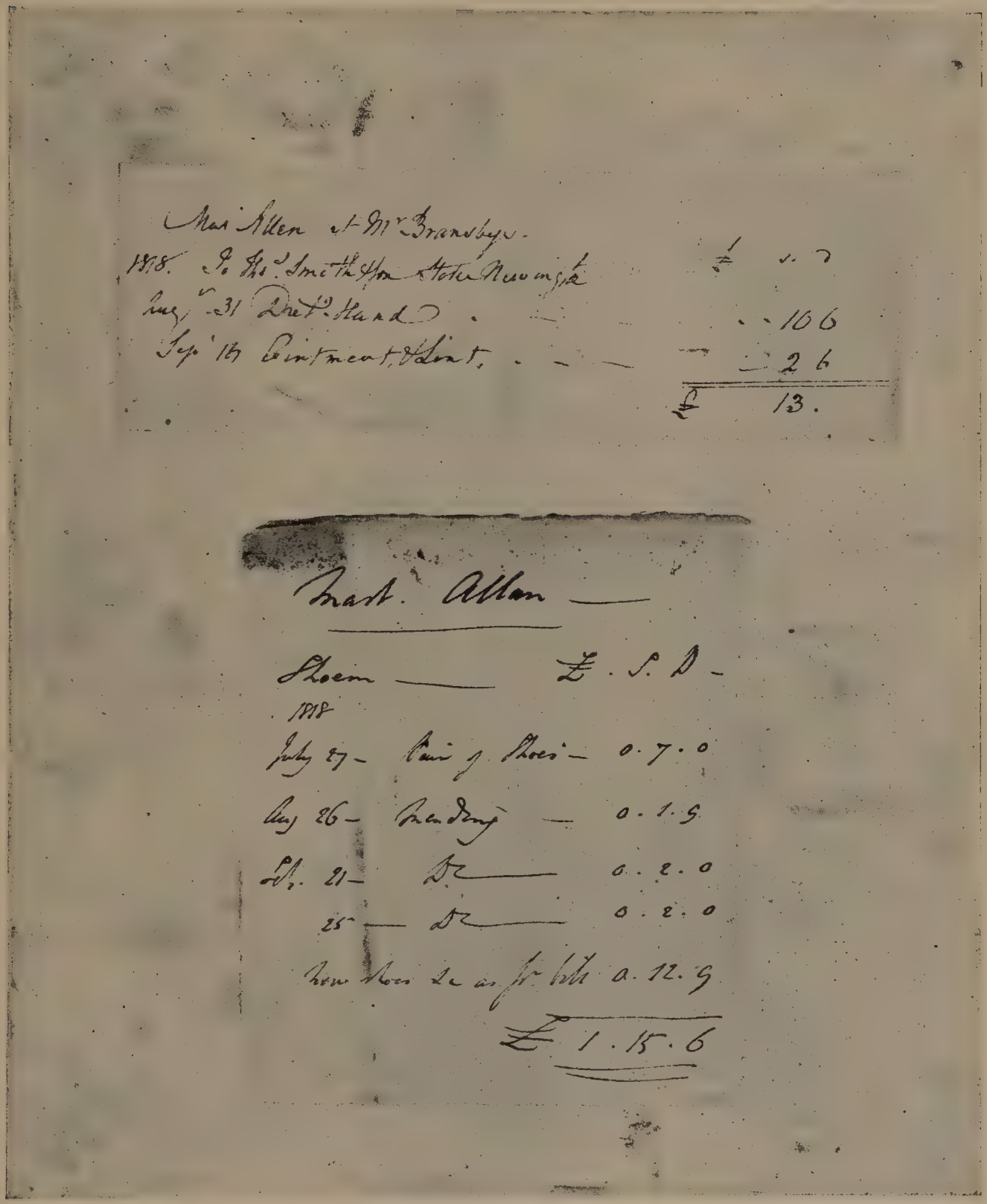
Mas Allan at M^{r} Bransbys.

1818. To Thos. Smith & Son Stoke Newington	£	s.	d
Aug^{t} 31 Dress Hand	—	10	6
Sep^{t} 18 Ointment & Lint	—	2	6
	£	13.	

Mast. Allan—

Shoem	£.	s.	d.
1818			
July 27—Pair of Shoes	0.	7.	0
Aug 26—Mending	0.	1.	9
Sep. 21—Do	0.	2.	0
25—Do	0.	2.	0
New shoes &c as per bill	0.	12.	9
	£1.	15.	6

BILL FOR EDGAR ALLAN POE AT MANOR HOUSE SCHOOL



Mast Allen of Mr Bransby's.

1818. Jo. Ths. Smith Esqr. Stoke Newington

Augt. 31 Dressing Hand . . 1 0 6

Sept. 18 Ointment & Lint. . . 0 2 6

£ 1 3.

Mast. Allen

Shoes £. s. d.

1818

July 27 — Pair of Shoes — 0. 7. 0

Aug. 26 — Mending — 0. 1. 6

Sept. 21 — Do — 0. 2. 0

25 — Do — 0. 2. 0

Rose Aleen 2 Pr. for bills 0. 12. 6

£ 1. 15. 6

THE DREAMER

A ROMANTIC RENDERING OF THE LIFE STORY OF EDGAR ALLAN POE

By MARY NEWTON STANARD

Author of "Richmond: Its People and Its Story"

8 Illustrations. Crown Octavo $3.50

A permanent addition to English literature. From its pages rises an unforgettably human figure of the tragic poet. His imaginative childhood, shadowed by the loss of the beautiful mother he would see "never more;" his boyhood at the Allans', its fabric of dreams rent time and again by the realities of school and the severity of his foster-father; West Point, journalism and a bitter misunderstanding which threw his sensitive fancy back into itself again; struggle and temptation by that "Imp of the Perverse" which must always be his besetting enemy; love and manhood in his devotion to the lovely girl-wife he must lose so tragically; fame and forgetting and the last great dream—all is told with such rare understanding that the late F. Hopkinson Smith wrote the author he had "read it through in a night." The story reads like a beautiful romance, yet is true to historic record and the expression of Poe in his works. It is a genuine book-lover's book, delightfully printed and attractively bound in a very effective combination of buff and dark blue buckram. The unusual illustrations include the famous painting of Poe on the shore of Sullivan's Island, from the Charleston Museum.

DATE DUE

NO 1 9'79			
NO 26 '79			
NOV 25 2008			
GAYLORD			PRINTED IN U.S.A.

MARYGROVE COLLEGE LIBRARY
Edgar Allan Poe letters till now
828 P751
3 1927 00046561 4

828
P75l
Poe, E. A.
Edgar Allen Poe letters
till now unpublished
ISSUED TO

828
P75l